

From: Public Records publicrecords@gov.texas.gov 
Subject: 358-19 Evers - Release of Information
Date: September 18, 2019 at 10:47 AM
To: records@americanoversight.org

PR

September 18, 2019

Mr. Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
records@americanoversight.org
VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: OOG PIR # 358-19

Dear Mr. Evers:

This email is in response to your public information request to the Office of the Governor (“OOG”), received by the OOG on September 4, 2019. A copy of your request follows this email.

The OOG has reviewed its files and has located the attached documents that are responsive to your request. The OOG has redacted personal e-mail addresses from the attached documents pursuant to section 552.137 of the Government Code and Tex. Att'y Gen. Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009). If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-463-1750 or publicrecords@gov.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Joseph Behnke
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the Governor

From: American Oversight Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 2:58 PM
To: Public Records <publicrecords@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: PIR 358-19 Evers - Request

[**WARNING**] - The sender of this email could not be validated, and may not match the display name.

[**EXTERNAL SENDER**] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Dear Public Records Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Texas's public records laws.

Sincerely

[Download](#)

Vibha Kannan
Paralegal
American Oversight
foia@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

Public Records Request: TX-GOV-19-1114



TX-
GOV-1...114.pdf 358-19 Evers -
Docs f...se.pdf



~~Assigned = INVITE~~

~~CAT: Scheduling~~

201908130148



EMPOWER TEXANS

Conservative Leaders Gala

DECEMBER 7, 2019

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER
AT LAS COLINAS

Formal invitation to follow



EMPOWER TEXANS
PO Box 49730
Austin, TX 78765

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Austin, TX
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AUG 12 2019

OOG/CCOM

The Honorable & Mrs. Greg Abbott
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

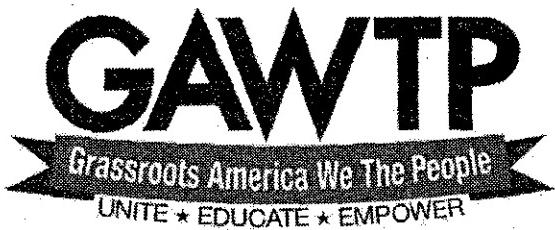


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Name: Mrs. JoAnn S Fleming	Correspondence ID:	IP Address: 64.139.234.155	Incoming Type: O
Address: 13128 Timber Creek Drive Flint TX 75762	Date Submitted:		
	Email:		
	Phone:	(903) 360-2858	

Message:

On behalf of the statewide membership of Grassroots America, we ask Governor Abbott to insist upon funding of the Texas National Guard as has been outlined by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.



Fleming, JoAnn
201503120209

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director
Chair, Lt. Gov. Patrick's Grassroots Advisory Board
13128 Timber Creek Drive
Flint, Texas 75762-9718
(903) 360-2858 cell ♦ jafleming3@juno.com

Hand-delivered by State Senator Bob Hall on Tuesday, February 24, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for the time you gave the "Texas grassroots" today. I deeply regret having to miss the meeting with you. Roads were not cleared of ice early enough to drive from Tyler to make the meeting.

Thank you for your deeply principled efforts to support the rule of law and true border security for the State of Texas. Your leadership on this matter crystallized last December when you stated President Obama is "eroding the very foundation of our nation's Constitution and bestowing a legacy of lawlessness." You then proceeded to lead 25 other states against the President's executive actions on immigration. You succeeded in obtaining US District Judge Hanen's recent ruling that stopped – at least for a time – implementation of Obama's amnesty by fiat.

Last Monday, answering media questions at your joint press conference with US Senator Cruz, Lt. Governor Patrick, and Attorney General Paxton, you defined border security with the clarity Texans have long awaited. In that defining moment, you rightly compared border security to police operations in large cities. You stated that police work toward the ultimate goal of having "no more murders, no more wrecks, no more thefts," and you concluded with "**Border security means that only those who are authorized to cross the border can do so.**"

Thank you, Governor Abbott, for stating what no other leader has been willing to say. We also appreciate DPS Director Colonel McCraw's clarity on the matter, which he repeated several times in the yesterday's Senate Finance Committee hearings – *"The border is secure when you detect and apprehend every smuggling event between the legal ports of entry. We have not secured the border."*

A long working relationship with local and state law enforcement and the visit I made last July with *Breitbart Texas* and other conservative leaders caused me to dig deeply into this issue. I have read the Texas DPS reports: *2013 Safety Threat Overview*, *2014 Gang Threat Assessment*, and *2014 Assessing the Threat of Human Trafficking in Texas*. These reports beg the question – how did we get here? How did we get to the point that these dangerous criminals have set up elaborate networks of organized crime across our state? **Governor Abbott, we believe you will do everything within your power to reverse this dangerous course.**

We respectfully ask you to consider our recommendation to leverage your leadership with those 25 other states to pursue an interstate compact among these states to gain operational control of the border and the ability to enforce the immigration laws already on the books. Governor Abbott, our Framers gave you the tools you need to lead this nation out of a quagmire that is eroding state and national sovereignty and threatens our national security, our elections, and our fiscal health. US Constitution Article 1, Section 10.3 gives you what you need to lead these other states on this grave matter. **For the love of Texas and this nation, we beg you to do so.**

May God bless you and your precious family,

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2015

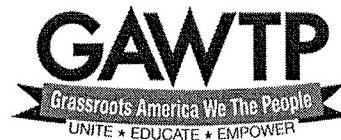
TX-GOV-19-1114-A-000004

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

AMERICA
OVERSIGHT
John Fleming

July 3, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lt. Governor of Texas
The Honorable Ken Paxton, Attorney General of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House



Gentlemen:

With all due respect, **Texans are angry**. As the reality of the Supreme Court ruling sinks in, a ruling that conferred special rights to same sex couples and ripped to shreds the definition of marriage as defined by nature's God, that anger is going to grow. **You should also understand it is more than a little irritating that political fundraising off the issue is in full gear when no decisive action is being taken to protect our state constitution or our religious liberty.** Resolve, clarity, and decisive actions are needed and are hereby requested from you – our state officials.

On the eve of celebrating our nation's independence birthed 239 years ago, it is worthwhile to reflect upon these words inscribed on the Jefferson Memorial: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever."

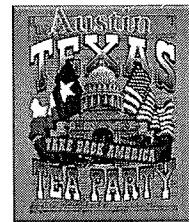
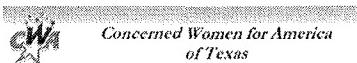
Gentlemen, what has happened with this ruling is no small matter. In fact, freedom itself is at stake as described by modern day patriot, Dr. Thomas Sowell, who laments what he describes as *Supreme Court Disasters*, "When any branch of government can exercise powers not authorized by either statutes or the Constitution, "we the people" are no longer free citizens but subjects, and our "public servants" are really our public masters. And America is no longer America. The freedom for which whole generations of Americans have fought and died is gradually but increasingly being taken away from us with smooth and slippery words."

In light of recent opinions released by the United States Supreme Court, we are deeply concerned that the federal government has over-reached its Constitutional limitations to the extent that the Sovereign State of Texas is in danger of losing its State Constitutional guarantee of a Republican form of government.

We are deeply concerned that you – our state leaders – under pressure by vocal business interests and loud extremists from the left, will simply stand by while our state sovereignty is destroyed and our state constitution nullified by a voracious federal government, assisted by federal judicial activism.

We are deeply concerned by the unprecedented level of apathy and lack of courage demonstrated by a majority of our Congressional delegation and by Congressional leadership as a whole. Their lack of backbone when it comes to wielding constitutional powers to rein in a lawless President and an activist court is sending the United States into clearly uncharted and dangerous territory. We no longer stand on the brink of a constitutional crisis; we are in the midst of it.

Sirs, we ask you, when will it be time for Texas to resist?



We bring to your attention the following issues surrounding the SCOTUS ruling on marriage and its impact on Texas:

1) Left unchecked, the SCOTUS redefinition of marriage sets yet another precedence of federal judicial activism and tyranny. This ruling was clearly "legislating from the bench," resulting in the usurpation of state law and the trampling of the will of the people as expressed by voters in November 2005, when 76% of Texas voters approved a proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution defining marriage as between one man and one woman. A majority of voters in only one of the state's 254 counties opposed the measure (60 % of the voters in Travis County, home to the capital, opposed the amendment).

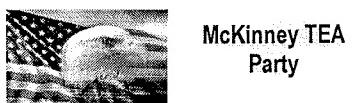
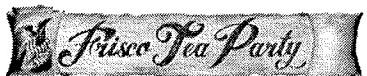
The Supreme Court took for itself powers not given to the federal government, violating the 9th and 10th amendments to the US Constitution. Nothing in the US Constitution requires or authorizes the redefinition of marriage by the federal government. The Constitution of the United States says that the federal government has only those powers specifically granted to it by the Constitution—and that all other powers belong either to the states or to the people themselves.

2) Left unchecked, the federal government has once again commandeered state assets (assets belonging to the people of Texas), and it appears our statewide leaders and legislators have no will to stop it. Benefits to same sex couples began to flow this week in Texas. The Employee Retirement System of Texas (ERS) announced that same-sex spouses could enroll in the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program beginning July 1st. We are aware of no public meeting or legal process that resulted in this sudden change. This program extends to all state agency and higher education employees as well as retired employees eligible for the Texas Employee Group Benefits Program.

Upon what authority did this agency issue these benefits – benefits that have not been authorized by state law? We are incensed that our duly elected legislature has been bypassed!

3) Left unchecked, this ruling sets the stage for the demise of religious liberty, which resides in the First Amendment. We urge you to go beyond mere words and take immediate and decisive action to protect the freedom of speech, the freedom of association, and the freedom of religion for those who continue to abide by the truth of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The right not to violate one's own conscience is a fundamental right of the First Amendment (conscientious objection). Currently, many other professions and providers are crying out for religious liberty protection such as faith-based adoption agencies, faith-based foster care agencies, bakers, photographers, florists, Christian schools, county clerks, and justices of the peace. If people of faith are already protected, why are legislators promising to file bills next session? The people of Texas should not have to wait until 2017. Would you have us spend thousands of dollars in court and risk losing our schools and businesses because our leaders refused to act? At a minimum, a special session of the legislature is in order!

4) We must NOT take Texas out of the definition of marriage. Why? 1) The Heritage Foundation's Dr. Ryan T. Anderson says, "Marriage isn't just a private affair; marriage is a matter of public policy because marriage (as



Fredericksburg TEA Party



handed down through generations and based on the biblical definition) is society's best way to ensure the well-being of children. State recognition of traditional marriage acts as a powerful social norm that encourages men and women to commit to each other so they will take responsibility for any children that follow." 2) Marriage is woven throughout family law (including adoptions), probate law, and throughout the tax code. The call from some to "take marriage out of the government's hands" is a simplistic approach to a very complicated issue. While there is no doubt "marriage" is defined by God – and not government – it was long ago that government got involved in marriage in ways it is not easily extracted.

5) Finally, we call to your attention 28 U.S. Code § 455 - Disqualification of justice, judge, or magistrate judge, which in **plain language** reads: "Any justice, judge, or magistrate judge of the United States shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned." Justices Elena Kagan and Ruth Bader Ginsburg should have recused themselves from the case because it is a matter of public record that they have officiated gay weddings. We believe the rule of law cries out to be enforced! Just because pundits and liberal law professors say a statute doesn't matter, does not make it so. We believe this an issue that should be raised by Texas.

If there was ever a time to fight judicial activism to stop an overreaching federal behemoth on the march against individual and states' rights, it is now. **Texas needs to lead.**

The nation is watching to see if Texas folds. We pray that you do not.

This matter is of vital interest to us and thousands more across the Lone Star State. **Pursuant to our right and duty to petition our elected leaders, we will not cease to raise our voices against inaction.**

For Liberty – for Texas,



JoAnn Fleming	Executive Dir., Grassroots America (903) 360-2858
Cathie Adams,	President, Texas Eagle Forum (972) 523-8551
Ann Hettinger	State Director, Concerned Women for America/TX
Karen Albright	President, Freestone County TEA Party
LaDaune Ashley	Founding member, Alvin TEA Party Patriots
Steve Baysinger	New Revolution Now - San Antonio
Elena Blake	Irving Republican Women's Club
Julie Borik	Garland TEA Party
Kelly Canon	Vice-President, Arlington TEA Party
Eva Carter	Llano TEA Party
Dr. Dwayne Collins	Edom TEA Party
Connie Curry	Lubbock, GOP Grassroots Activist
Suzanne Dillmann	Founding member, Alvin TEA Party
Sheri Edwards	Steering Committee, Alvin TEA Party Patriots; Co-Founder Texas Conservatives
David Ellis	Garland TEA Party
Pamela Engstrom	Wylie Tea Party
Maria Espinoza	The Remembrance Project

Toni & Tom Fabry	Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party
Sharon Hall	New Revolution Now - New Braunfels
Barbara Harless	North Texas Citizens' Lobby
Joe Harrison	Founder, Cass County Patriots
Cole Hefner	Director, East Texans for Liberty
Kelly Horsley	Katy Tea Party
Mary & Dale Huls	President & Board member, Clear Lake TEA Party
Bill Hussey	Founder/President, Llano Tea Party
Camille Johnson	President, Carrollton Tea Party
Larry Korkmas	Longtime Houston Conservative GOP Activist
Cyndi Lawrence	President, Katy Libertea
Robin & Jim Lennon	President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.
Jim & Carla Logan	Leaders, Hood County TEA Party
Matt Long	Fredericksburg Tea Party
Dr. Ivette C. Lozano	President, Dallas County Republican Assembly
Julie McCarty	President, North East Tarrant TEA Party
Jerry McIntire	Llano TEA Party
Chuck Molyneaux	President, McKinney TEA Party; Organizer, North Texas Citizens' Lobby
Ray Myers	President, Kaufman County TEA Party
Naomi Narvaiz	America First Latinos - San Marcus
Mike & Marika Olcott	Parker County Conservatives
Katrina Pierson	Founder, Garland TEA Party; National Political Analyst & Commentator
Don & Rene Poe	Leaders, Hood County TEA Party
Pamela Praesel	Bryan/College Station TEA Party
Russell Ramsland	Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum
Mark Reid	North Texas Citizens' Lobby
Pedro Rivera	America First Latinos - Houston
George Rodriguez	America First Latinos - San Antonio
Dr. Barry A. Schlech	VP Communications, Texas Patriots TEA Party; President, We The People of Texas PAC
Cindy/Mike Schwartz	President & Founder, We the People - Longview
Jan Shedd	Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party
Bryan Slaton	Hunt County Conservative
Shirley Spellerberg	President, Denton County Republican Assembly
Barb Stauffer	Steering Committee Garland TEA Party; Golden Corridor Republican Women
Joline Tate	Steering Committee, Garland TEA Party
Liz Theiss	Grassroots Houston
Pat Tibbs	Montgomery County TEA Party
Dean Wright	Director, New Revolution Now; Austin TEA Party
Maggie Wright	Past president, Texas Patriots Tea Party
Pastor Gregory Young	Host, The Chosen Generation Radio Show & Ignite the Fire Group
Larry Youngblood	President, Leon County Tea Party

Dede Keith

From: Jay Dyer
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 10:55 AM
To: Dede Keith
Subject: FW: Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition Letter
Attachments: Coalition_SCOTUS_Opposition.pdf

Dede:

I received this letter this week. It is addressed to the Governor, so I am sending to you.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

J

From: JoAnn Fleming [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 12:04 AM
To: Jay Dyer; Daniel.Hodge@gov.gtxas.gov
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition Letter

Gentlemen:

Attached for Governor Abbott is a letter signed by a wide array of statewide conservative leaders, grassroots TEA party leaders, and Dallas area GOP group leaders. We attempted to send the letter last Friday. Letters to the Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and House Speaker were all delivered successfully; however, the e-mail addresses found in a state directory and used for the Governor's Office bounced back. One of the Liberty 8 Senators provided the correct addresses.

We ask that you promptly forward this letter to Governor Abbott. It clearly articulates our concerns regarding religious liberty, opposition to judicial activism, and our objections to state agencies taking it upon themselves to enroll same sex "spouses" for state benefits when no legislative action has been taken to authorize such an action.

It is important to note these group leaders speak for organizations representing thousands of Texans.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Thank you,

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People
(903) 360-2858 cell

Where applicable, a political advertisement paid for by the GAWTP PAC, PO Box 130012, Tyler, TX 75713.

The information in this email and the documents accompanying it contain confidential information belonging to the sender which is legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the individuals or entities named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action

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EMPOWERTEXANS



May 31, 2016

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Joe Straus
Speaker, Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

RECEIVED
MAY 31 2016
Appointments

Re: Holdovers on the Texas Ethics Commission

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Straus:

We write to request that you collectively address and cure a very important deficiency relating to the sovereign officers serving at the Texas Ethics Commission (Commission); namely, the compelling need to appoint qualified new Commissioners to replace those sitting in office under the holdover provision in Article XVI, section 17, of the Texas Constitution.

The eight commissioners are appointed – four by the Governor, two by the Lieutenant Governor, and two by the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives – via a process involving members of the Senate and House, representing the two major political parties, submitting lists of nominees to the appropriate state official for appointment. The commissioners serve for four-year terms. Additionally, Article III, Section 24a(c) of the Texas Constitution provides that “[a] member who has served for one term and any part of a second term is not eligible for reappointment.”

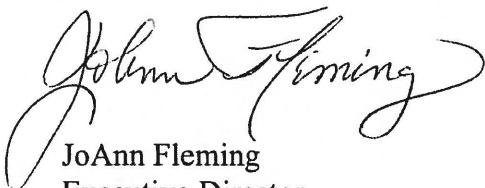
Importantly, certain commissioners remain in their position under the holdover provision, long awaiting replacement appointments. Specifically, please note the following expirations:

- Tom Harrison, gubernatorial appointee, expired November 2011.
- Bob Long, gubernatorial appointee, expired November 2015.
- Wilhelmina Deloc, Lt. Governor appointee, expired November 2015.
- Paul Hobby, Speaker appointee, expired November 2015.

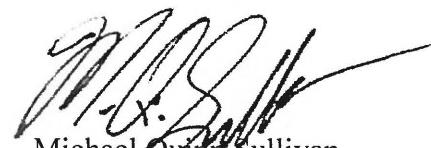
The holdover provision is a safeguard preventing vacancies and ensuring continuation of functions, rather than serving as an undue extension of terms in office. Moreover, we have for some time been concerned with the use of the Texas Ethics Commission by certain elected officials as a vehicle to harass and silence the voice of the people during their participation in the political process. In fact, the Commission, during the course of the last couple of years, has found itself involved in at least eight lawsuits brought by citizens attempting to defend their rights.

Respectfully, we request that the matter of appointing commissioners to replace those who are sitting in expired terms be set as a priority action item. In so doing, we hope and trust that you will appoint Texans who will respect the guarantees embedded in the United States and Texas Constitutions regarding the ability of citizens to participate in the political process.

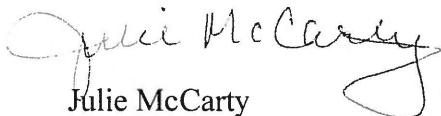
Sincerely,



JoAnn Fleming
Executive Director
Grassroots America – We The People



Michael Quinn Sullivan
President
Empower Texans



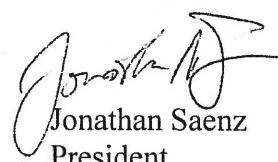
Julie McCarty
President
NE Tarrant Tea Party



Jim Graham
President
Texas Right to Life



Tim Lambert
President
Texas Home School Coalition



Jonathan Saenz
President
Texas Values

Fleming doAnn 201704051906

RECEIVED

APR 05 2017

OOG/CCOM

March 30th, 2017

NAE/FyF

Cati 85th LS

MT: 85 HB4236 - PPL

MT: 85 SB2093 - PPL



The Honorable Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott

The Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Texas, Dan Patrick

The Honorable Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Joe Straus

RE: Support House Bill 4236 and Senate Bill 2093

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Straus:

As proud Texans, we are writing you today to ask that you join us in championing the free market and supporting true competition in the automobile industry for the benefit of Texans. As it states in the Republican Party of Texas platform: "We support allowing consumers in Texas to be able to purchase cars directly from manufacturers." This language, supported by nearly 90 percent of GOP delegates at the 2016 State Convention, unambiguously reflects the strong support Direct Sales has from Texans across our great state.

Accordingly, we proudly support House Bill 4236 by Representative Isaac and Senate Bill 2093 by Senator Hall, which allow manufacturers of vehicles of any weight, class, size or shape to sell directly to Texas consumers.

During the last century, legislation was passed in Texas giving franchised auto dealers a legal monopoly on new car sales in the state, and at the time, lawmakers had their reasons for this consolidation. Today, however, our fellow Texans, who deserve every convenience the free market can provide them, are stuck in an expensive, antiquated model of buying new automobiles.

It is difficult to understand why in the year 2017, with so much focus in our state on economic development and the unmatched technological advances we've realized in nearly every area of our daily lives, Texas citizens are expected to purchase cars through a middleman; it benefits no one other than the dealers who profit off of this protectionist system. Texans are not only forced to buy new cars and trucks via this monopoly, they don't even enjoy the option of buying a vehicle directly from a manufacturer. While other industries are allowed to innovate and modernize, creating efficiencies, saving consumers money, and improving customer service, the Texas auto industry remains stuck in the past. Worst of all, they're relying on government protection to maintain their monopoly.

The advantages of Direct Sales are clear:



David White
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TX-GOV-19-1114-A-000013

- It enhances the free market and bolsters economic freedom.
- It empowers consumers and gives them more choices.
- It saves consumers money on one of their biggest purchases.

Direct Sales will modernize how consumers buy new cars in Texas. By supporting Direct Auto Sales, you will be sending a clear message that you support eliminating protectionist regulations and agree that consumers, not the government, should decide how Texans buy new vehicles.

Thank you for the important work you do for our great state. Please continue this meaningful work by ensuring that millions of Texas citizens are afforded the opportunity to benefit from technological advances and modern conveniences when purchasing their next vehicle. Texas consumers want Direct Sales.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 4236 and SB 2093.

For Liberty – for Texas,

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America

Jim & Robin Lennon, Kingwood TEA Party

Michael Openshaw, Co-founder, North Texas Tea Party

Suezette Griffin, President, Clear Lake Tea Party

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg Tea Party

Wade Miller, Grassroots Conservative

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership

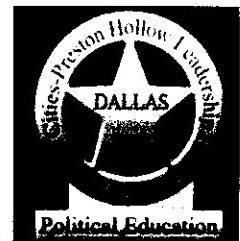
Forum

Dean Wright, Co-Founder/Director, New Revolution Now

Toby Marie Walker, Waco Tea Party Leader



Fredericksburg
TEA Party



Maggie Wright, Founding Member & current Board Member & past President, Texas Patriots Tea Party

Bill Hussey, Founder, Llano Tea Party

Judy Kent, President, Republican Women of Northeast Texas

Suzanne Guggenheim, Corpus Christi Tea Party Leader

George Rodriguez, host of El Conservador - podcast & blog

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant Tea Party

Jeremiah C. Hunter, Chairman, We The People-Longview Tea Party

Barbara Harless, Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby

Cathie Adams, Former President, Texas Eagle Forum

Carroll Maxwell, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

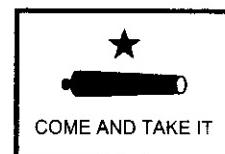
Ray Myers, Chair, Kaufman County Tea Party

Dr. Dwayne Collins, Chairman, Edom TEA Party

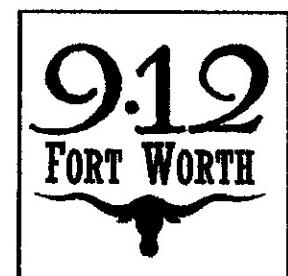
Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Adrian Murray, Co-founder, 912 Project Fort Worth

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party



Edom TEA Party



Texas Free Market Coalition
An Open Letter to Mr. Warren Buffett
RECEIVED

April 24, 2017

APR 25 2017

OOG/CCOM

Dear Mr. Buffett,

Thank you for drawing attention to Texas' protectionist auto dealership laws. For decades, the auto dealership lobby has funneled millions of dollars into the campaign coffers of politicians who claim to be free market champions in order to protect dealer markups from the free market. **Welcome to the fight.**

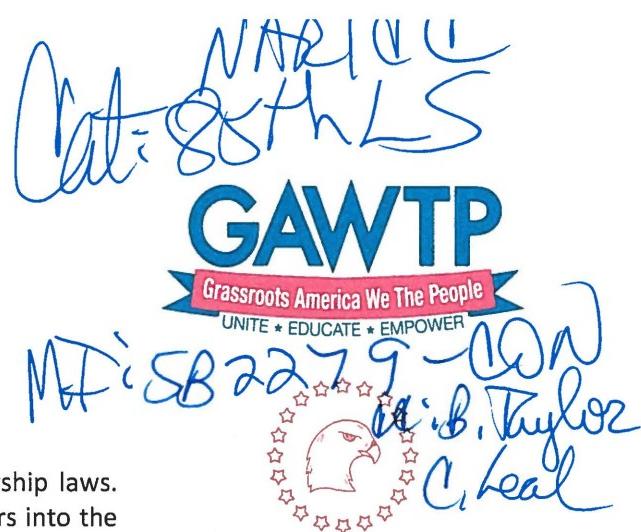
Unfortunately, we have concerns about your proposed solution. While we agree that ownership of an RV production facility should not preclude ownership of an auto dealership in Texas, your turbo-tracked SB 2279 by Texas Republican Sen. Kelly Hancock offers limited relief – much too limited.

Senator Hancock's bill relies upon what Ross Ramsey of the *Texas Tribune* called "the kind of distinction lawyers are paid to conjure" to allow a politically favored entity access to the Texas auto market. If this bill were to pass, Texas consumers would still be held hostage to the dealer markup of the auto sales lobby. **Too bad for us – right, Mr. Buffett?**

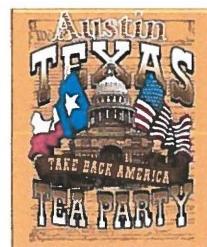
While other industries are allowed to innovate and modernize, creating efficiencies, saving consumers money, and improving customer service, the Texas auto industry remains stuck in the past. Worst of all, they rely on government protection to maintain their monopoly. **Yes, the reality is that most of our Texas politicians who claim to be free market champions are happy to engage in protectionism and to use our tax dollars to pick winners and losers.**

In picking winners and losers, politically directed allocation of capital impoverishes us all. As the Texas Public Policy Foundation explains in their 2016 publication *Policymaker's Guide to Corporate Welfare*: "proponents of corporate welfare suffer from a false belief in central planning. They believe that either they or government planners can best determine the [business model] that has the best chance of success, which jobs and products best supply society's needs, and where best to expend scarce supplies of capital. They believe that they just can't sit back and let the economy take care of itself; they have to take money and property from citizens in order to solve the citizens' problems for them." This special interest-laden intermingling of business and government inevitably begets fewer jobs and a higher cost of living.

Fortunately, Mr. Buffett, a better alternative exists. SB 2093 and HB 4236 have been filed in their respective chambers by free market champions Texas Sen. Bob Hall and Texas Rep. Jason Isaac. These direct sales bills would repeal the laws in question. **If those bills were to pass, you would be able to own dealerships in Texas, while Texas consumers would benefit from more options at lower prices.** It's a win/win or what economists call a "positive sum outcome."



Texas Eagle Forum



Unlike your special SB 2279, which was written, filed, and passed out of committee in three days' time – more than a month **AFTER** the official deadline for filing bills – these clean “no carve-out, no special perks” direct sales bills have been languishing in committees chaired by Texas Sen. Kelly Hancock and Texas Rep. John Keumpel. The opportunity still exists for these free market alternatives to cross Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s desk. **Your support for SB 2093 and HB 4236 would be greatly appreciated.**

Mr. Buffett, we are just ordinary Texans fighting to keep some of our hard-earned money through true free market choice, unhampered by government meddling. **Since you obviously have much more influence over our state officials than we do, we ask for your help in passing the direct sales bills that would benefit all Texans.**

Noted philanthropist that you are, your assistance in passing SB 2093 and HB 4236 in the Texas Legislature is eagerly awaited.

Sincerely, the undersigned supporters of a Texas Free Market,*

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Adam Cahn, political blogger, Cahnman's Musings

Cathie Adams, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas Eagle Forum

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party

Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party

Dana Hodges, Republican Party Precinct #9 Chair, Orange County

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County TEA Party

George Rodriguez, El Conservador, Broadcast Activist

Maggie Wright, Founding member, past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Robin and Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.

Jackie King, Co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Suezette Griffin, President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Mary and Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party



Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty

Dr. Dwayne Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party

Dean Wright, Co-founder/Director, New Revolution Now & the Austin TEA Party

Suzanne Guggenheim, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator – South Texas;
Programs & Events Chairman, Corpus Christi TEA Party



Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRe

Barbara Harless, Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby

Judy Kent, President, Republican Women of Northeast Texas

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Mike Openshaw, Co-founder , Communications Director, North Texas TEA Party

Toby Marie Walker, President, Waco TEA Party

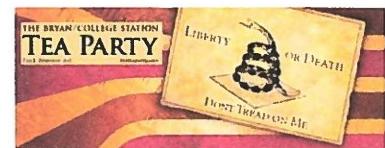
Allen Tharp, President, San Antonio TEA Party

Jim Speiran, GOTV Committee Chair, Grassroots America; Chair, Smith County
GOP Precinct 75

Jeremiah Hunter, Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party

Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D., A Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Liz Theiss, Founder, Stop the Magnet



Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

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Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

Doug McCullough, Canton TEA Party

Toni and Tom Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party

Rene Poe, Founder, Executive Committee member, Hood County TEA Party



Teresa Beckmeyer, Republican Party County Chair, Mitchell County

Kelly Canon, Co-founder & Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

Brady Whatley, Flower Mound Area Republicans



Ben Davis, Canton TEA Party

Carroll Maxwell, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

Sue Evenwel, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 1



Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots

Bill Bingham, Spokesman, Bryan/College Station TEA Party

Mary E.(Betty) Fallert, Steering committee member, Kaufman County TEA Party

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall

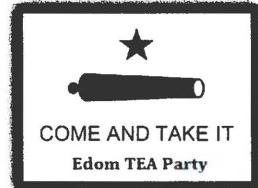
David Ellis, Garland TEA Party

Mike and Cindy Schwartz, Co-Founders, We The People-Longview TEA Party

Dennis R. McKee, Kaufman County TEA Party

Trevor Dupuy, a Founder & Past President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, LLC



Fredericksburg TEA Party



CC: The Honorable Governor Greg Abbott

The Honorable Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

Texas Senate Committee on Business & Finance:

Position	Member
Chair:	The Honorable Senator Kelly Hancock
Vice Chair:	The Honorable Senator Brandon Creighton



Honorable Committee Members:	Senator Donna Campbell, Senator Craig Estes, Senator Robert Nichols, Senator Charles Schwertner, Senator Larry Taylor, Senator John Whitmire, Senator Judith Zaffirini
-------------------------------------	--

All other Texas Senators:

The Honorable Senator Paul Bettencourt
 The Honorable Senator Brian Birdwell
 The Honorable Senator Konni Burton
 The Honorable Senator Dawn Buckingham
 The Honorable Senator Sylvia Garcia
 The Honorable Senator Bob Hall
 The Honorable Senator Juan Hinojosa
 The Honorable Senator Don Huffines
 The Honorable Senator Joan Huffman
 The Honorable Senator Bryan Hughes
 The Honorable Senator Lois Kolkhorst
 The Honorable Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
 The Honorable Senator José Menéndez
 The Honorable Senator Borris Miles
 The Honorable Senator Jane Nelson
 The Honorable Senator Charles Perry
 The Honorable Senator José Rodríguez
 The Honorable Senator Kel Seliger
 The Honorable Senator Van Taylor
 The Honorable Senator Carlos Uresti
 The Honorable Senator Kirk Watson
 The Honorable Senator Royce West

* Organizations are listed for identification purposes.
 All expenditures related to production were assumed and reported by Grassroots America – We the People PAC.

Fleming Jo Ann 201705313a
NAN ELLIS
Bart, OSWINS

Texas Grassroots Coalition:

Unfinished Business Important to the People of Texas

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott

Governor of Texas

Governor Abbott:

RECEIVED

MAY 31 2017

OOG/CCOM

When it comes to getting their priorities passed in the Texas Legislature, the people of Texas deserve better,

The leadership of the Texas House of Representatives once again thumbed their noses at taxpayers. No issue unifies Texans like our frustration with the burdensome – almost confiscatory – property tax system. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and the Texas Senate demonstrated their support for property tax reform when, earlier in the session, they passed a comprehensive reform measure designed to put voters in charge of property taxes.

Last Saturday, the Republican-Democrat coalition in charge of the Texas House took what was already a watered down version of that Senate measure and turned it into little more than an expanded posting requirement before local governments can raise taxes on Texas families. The “big change” in the House bill was changing the name in law from the “effective rate” to the “no-new-revenue tax rate.”

The 85th legislative session constitutes an epic failure on property tax reform.

Next, we have the Privacy Act (SB6). Protecting the safety, dignity, and privacy of Texans from overreaching local governments is a critical issue with broad support among voters. This has been a legislative priority for many pastors, conservative leaders, and citizens throughout the entire 85th legislative session. Lt. Governor Patrick and the Senate responded, passing a comprehensive privacy act that would protect the safety, dignity, and privacy of all Texans in locker rooms, changing facilities, and bathrooms in public schools and other government buildings. It also protected private businesses from overreaching local ordinances.

After spending the majority of the 85th legislature obstructing and delaying SB 6, House leadership decided to pass a worthless and ineffectual amendment so they could claim credit and avoid a special session.

Now that the 85th Texas Legislature has adjourned, the People are left with no proper privacy protections for public school children (including those enrolled in dual credit courses at institutions of higher education) or conscience protections for business owners. *The radical left is poised to double down on its agenda and will target our schools, cities, and private businesses because of this breathtaking failure of the legislature to protect the privacy, dignity, and safety of Texans. This must not stand!*

GRASSROOTS AMERICA

WE THE PEOPLE

UNITE • EDUCATE • EMPOWER

MT. 85IS - Special



EMPOWERTEXANS

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St. bathroom Bill-fb



Texas Eagle Forum



Finally, not one substantial election integrity or ballot security bill passed this session. This is particularly appalling since it has been discovered that ***neither the Texas Secretary of State nor any election official in any of our 254 counties is mandated by law to verify the driver's license or Social Security numbers used by individuals when they register to vote!*** In addition, the Secretary of State's Office has been issuing waivers allowing local election officials to avoid printing paper back-ups to electronic voting machines. This means there is no way to verify election results!

These facts, coupled with the mail-in ballot harvesting schemes uncovered by activists in the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex (and currently under investigation by the Texas Attorney General's Office), should have been plenty of incentive for the legislature to act to stamp out opportunities for voter fraud.

Make no mistake – this is not a scheme that can be attributed to Democrats alone. We've seen enough to believe that there are Republican officials up to their eyeballs in election tampering. Wide-open opportunities for voter fraud aren't something Texans should be expected to tolerate until the 2019 legislature convenes. Voter fraud is not like accepting the rain ruining a picnic.

The 85th legislative session was an alarming failure on the vitally important issues of election integrity and ballot security.

Governor, while we take note of your praise for the progress made on ethics reform (that came late on the eve of Sine Die), we are greatly disappointed that the automatic revolving door of lawmakers to lobbyists is still in rotation; that lobbyists can still serve in elected office; and loopholes exploited by lobbyists are still there hiding the extent to which public officials are wined and dined by lobbyists – who, more often than not, are diametrically opposed to a wide array of conservative principles.

When running for office, Republicans do a lot of talking about conservative values, but with Republicans in charge of every branch of state government, the unfinished business of this legislative session is unacceptable. ***The people of Texas deserve better.***

They deserve property tax relief, safety, dignity, and privacy in the most intimate settings, the highest ethics for state government officials, and the peace of mind that election results are dependable and verifiable.

We strongly agree with your statements, Governor Abbott, that, "voter fraud must be eradicated," that "we must do all we can to help women have privacy, safety and security to the fullest extent," and that we must also secure "real constraints on the rise in property taxes on our fellow Texans."

Governor, we respectfully submit to you that none of these issues can wait until the 2019 Legislative Session. We therefore ask you to respect the people of Texas, make good on your declared legislative priorities, and make plans to



call a special session of the Texas Legislature to complete this important unfinished business for the People. *Anything less is unacceptable.*

The undersigned Texas Grassroots Leaders:*

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC



Michael Quinn Sullivan, President, Empower Texans



Pastor Dave Welch, President, Texas Pastors Council

Cathie Adams, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas Eagle Forum



Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum



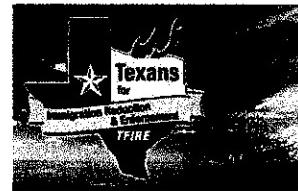
Dana Hedges, State Director, Concerned Women for America/Texas



Aaron Harris, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas

Jonathan Saenz, President, Texas Values

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, Save our Texas Vote Coalition



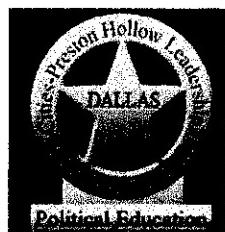
Tim Lambert, President, Texas Home School Coalition

Farris and Jo Ann Wilks, Cisco Conservatives

C. R. "Dick" Saulsbury, Saulsbury Companies

Monty Bennett, Ashford, Inc.

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party



Jared Woodfill, President, Conservative Republicans of Texas

Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County TEA Party

Maggie Wright, Founding member, past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

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Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRE

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum



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Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC



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Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Republican



Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

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Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

Carroll Maxwell, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

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Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall

Mike and Cindy Schwartz, Co-Founders, We The People-Longview TEA Party

Barb Stauffer, Garland Tea Party Steering Committee Member

Karen Albright, President, Freestone County TEA Party



Maria Espinoza & Timothy Lyng, Founders, THE REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Connie Curry, West Texas Conservative Leadership

Carol Doucet, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Jackie King, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Dottie Barnes, Charter member, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Kelly Canon, Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party

Bill Bingham, Spokesman, Bryan/College Station TEA Party

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director, East Texans for Liberty

George Pangburn, President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Maria Martinez, Houston Inner Loop Grassroots

Dr. Ivette Lozano, Past President, Dallas County Republican Assembly 2015-2017

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, LLC

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee member, Garland TEA Party

Debbie Terry, State Republican Executive Committee, SD 12

Marian Knowlton, Republican Party County Chairman, Atascosa County

Tanya Robertson, State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 11

Terri Dubose, State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 19

Jack Dubose, Republican Party County Chair, Real County

Tammy Blair, Republican Party County Chair, Cherokee County

Tim O'Hare, Republican Party County Chair, Tarrant County

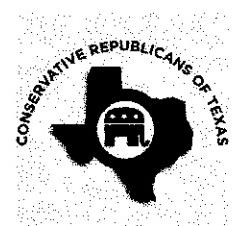
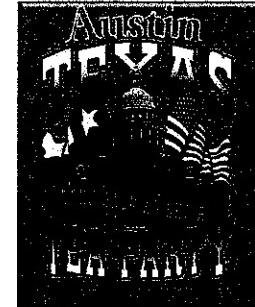
Lynn Gaston, Precinct 2 Chair, Mitchell County

Mike Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives

John Alaniz, former President, Central Texas TEA Party

Suzanne Guggenheim, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator – South Texas; Programs & Events Chairman, Corpus Christi TEA Party Patriots

David Carter, Bell County Election Judge, Precinct 311



Corpus Christi TEA Party Patriots

* Organizations are listed for identification purposes.

Fleming, Joann
201706050960

Texas Grassroots Coalition

Strong Support for Grid Security for Special Session

Relating to the protection of energy-critical infrastructure from electromagnetic, geomagnetic, terroristic, and cyber-attack threats.

May 30, 2017

RECEIVED

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

MAY 31 2017

OOG/CCOM

Dear Governor Abbott:

Another critical piece of unfinished legislative business important to the life and economic prosperity in Texas is grid security. This is the second session we've worked to get a grid security bill passed, but it seems the voice of the lobbyists is once again louder than ours.

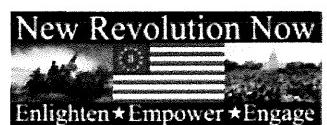
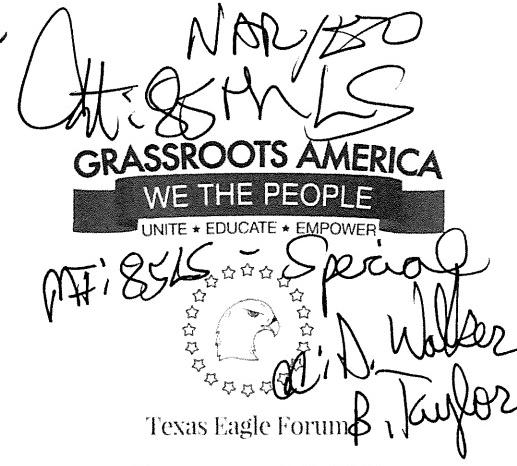
Although the bulk of political support for grid security has come from Republicans, we were delighted to see that Senator John Whitmire (D) – the Dean of the Texas Senate – was a co-author of Senator Hall's SB 83. In addition, on February 1, 2017, the US House Energy and Commerce Committee's Ranking Member, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), spoke about the importance of continued improvements to our nation's efforts to defend against cybersecurity threats to the electricity grid, saying, **"I consider grid security to be a top tier national security concern."**

As you are well aware, Governor, the 2016 Texas GOP Platform, page 17, section 155, states, "We urge that the Texas Legislature pass legislation to harden the Texas Electric Grid against:

1. Cyber-attacks on the grid's computerized command and control system.
2. Physical attacks on substations and major high voltage transformers.
3. Geomagnetic storms created by solar flares from the sun.
4. Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)."

The 2016 National Republican Party Platform agrees, "The grid is aging, vulnerable to cyber and terrorist threats, and unprepared to serve our energy needs of tomorrow."

Finally, on November 21, 2016, President-Elect Donald Trump stated that he would ask "the Department of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to develop a comprehensive plan to protect America's vital infrastructure from cyber-attacks and all other forms of attacks."



Although we have cited support from both the left and the right of the political spectrum, **the safety, security, and economic well-being of Texans is not a Republican, nor a Democratic issue – it is an issue vitally important to ALL Texans.**

Rapidly accelerating technology, the proliferation of “black hat hackers,” and today’s volatile geo-political environment, have significantly elevated the threat of a catastrophic Electro Magnetic Pulse (EMP) event or a terroristic assault in the form of a cyber-attack or an act of sabotage that could dramatically and irreversibly change life as we know it. While this is a nationwide threat, Texas stands alone in its ability to protect the Texas electrical grid from this threat because Texas is the only state with an electrical grid that is essentially isolated from other states.

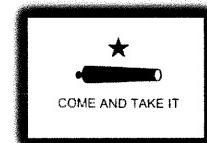
At a lunch meeting with Texas Senators last week, US Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry spoke about the urgency to secure the grid. **We agree with Secretary Perry and cannot understand why there is not a strong sense of urgency to move forward to protect the Texas grid from terrorists, rogue nations, and naturally occurring geo-magnetic storms.**

Governor, we respectfully ask that you send a signal to special interests that you value the lives and economic livelihood of Texans over their objections. Please put grid security on the call for a special session. **Lives depend on getting this right.**

The undersigned strongly support Senator Bob Hall’s grid security bill (SB 83), which will propel Texas forward in the urgent mission to strengthen, harden, and protect our electrical grid against natural-occurring and manmade attacks.

For Liberty – for Texas,

JoAnn Fleming	Executive Director, Grassroots America PAC
Cathie Adams	Director, Nat'l Eagle Forum, past Pres. TX Eagle Forum
Trayce Bradford	President, Texas Eagle Forum
Dana Hodges	State Director, Concerned Women for America of TX
Ann Hettinger	Director, Center for Preservation of American Ideals
Anna Bartosh	Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party
Dr. Dwayne Collins	Chairman, Edom TEA Party
Carol Doucet	A Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County
Clyde Bryan	President, The Executive Council - Houston



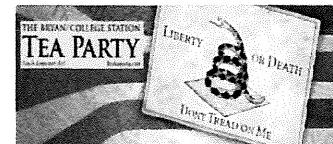
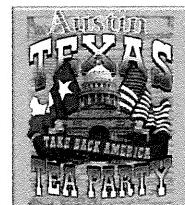
Edom
TEA Party



Fredericksburg
TEA Party

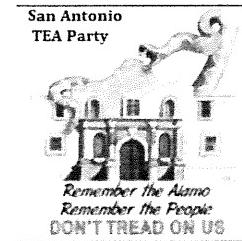
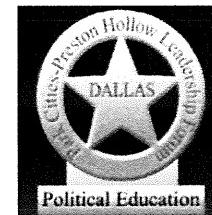


Toni & Tom Fabry	Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party
Rebecca Forest	Women on the Wall
Suezette Griffin	President, Clear Lake TEA Party
Daniel Hare	President, Texas Patriots TEA Party
David Horton	Titus County Republican Club
Mary & Dale Huls	Executive Board Members, Clear Lake TEA Party
Jeremiah Hunter	Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party
Bill Hussey	Founder/Past President, Llano TEA Party
Keith Kelly	A Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party
Judy Kent	President, Republican Women of NE Texas
Larry Korkmas	President, TFIRE
Matt Long	President, Fredericksburg TEA Party
Dr. Ivette Lozano	President, Dallas County Republican Assembly
Susan Lucas	Denton County Conservative Coalition
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Judy Schmid	A Founder/President, Sugar Land TEA Party
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Jared Woodfill	President, Conservative Republicans of Texas
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Lyleann McClellan Thee	President, San Angelo TEA Party
Deborah Bailey	Member, San Angelo TEA Party
Sarah Meador Lipsett	Member, San Angelo TEA Party
Robin & Jim Lennon	President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party
Sue Evenwel	State GOP Executive Committeewoman, SD 1
Judy J. Brady	Charter member, Central Texas TEA Party
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Dottie Barnes	Co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County



Barbara Harless
Connie Curry
Terri Hall
Mike Olcott

Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby
West Texas Conservative Leadership
Leader, Spring Branch Grassroots Liberty Advocates
Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives



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for identification purposes.

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Att. Confederate
Symbols - PW



**130 Political Opinion Leaders,
Representing 92 Unique Organizations & Districts
Speak Out to Save Texas Monuments**



March 11, 2019

The Honorable Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
The Honorable Sen. Joan Huffman, Chairman, Senate State Affairs Committee
The Honorable Sen. Bryan Hughes, Vice-Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
Senate Committee on State Affairs, Republican Members:

The Honorable Sen. Brian Birdwell
The Honorable Sen. Brandon Creighton
The Honorable Sen. Pat Fallon, author, Texas Historical Protection Act [SB 226](#)
The Honorable Sen. Bob Hall
The Honorable Sen. Jane Nelson

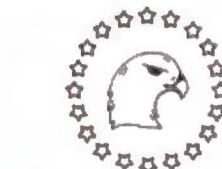
The Honorable Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen
The Honorable State Representative Kyle Biedermann, author of [HB 2648](#)
The Honorable State Representative James White, author of [HB 583](#)

Dear State Elected Officials:

"Those that cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
George Santayana (1863-1952)

The American Left has been on a political correctness jihad over the last several years. As a result, conservative speakers are attacked at college campuses, careers and reputations of those deemed "politically incorrect" are destroyed, and historical monuments are being pulled down, censored, and hidden all across the country.

Indeed, just like the Taliban, the radical Left is bent on destroying religious monuments and statues all across America. These monuments range from military veterans' memorials to the founding spiritual figures and murals in Ivy League colleges. The Left's appetite for censorship and groupthink has also expanded into secular historical representations of Christopher Columbus and Confederate statues and monuments.



Texas Eagle Forum



Unfortunately, Texas has not escaped the Left's purge of history. Urban areas such as Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin have targeted many Civil War era statues and monuments. Recently, the Dallas City Council voted to remove the city's oldest public monument, the Confederate War Memorial in Dallas Pioneer Park Cemetery. In 2017, the city council removed a statue of Robert E. Lee that had stood for 81 years after being dedicated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democratic President. Fortunately, the city still requires the approval of the Landmark Commission in order to "Take it down" as one council member demanded. Ignoring the value of history to correct mistakes of the past, the Dallas City Council is implementing an agenda that would erase historical figures and events that they find distasteful and unseemly.

In fact, the appetite to remove historical sites and memorials has spread past Confederate War statues to two of Texas' most cherished landmarks – the Alamo and the Alamo Cenotaph (also known as the *Spirit of Sacrifice*), which commemorates the fallen heroes of the Alamo Battle in their fight for independence from the centralist government of Mexico. The San Antonio City Council voted unanimously to return the Alamo to a pre-battle state and relocate the Cenotaph memorial to a more obscure location.

Opponents of the city council's plan to emphasize the Alamo complex prior to the famous battle for Texas independence fear that **millions of visitors who come to the Alamo will not garner a true understanding of the Texas spirit if the Texas Alamo Defenders are de-emphasized and hidden.**

The Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition puts its opposition to the City of San Antonio's plan (endorsed and supported by Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush) this way – ***Their plan is nothing less than an attempt to erase the history of Texas Independence and demonstrates callous, flagrant disrespect for the Alamo Freedom Fighters.***

The Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition calls for the Lieutenant Governor, Texas Speaker of the House, and the Senate State Affairs Committee to protect Texas monuments and statues by supporting SB 226 (Fallon) the **Texas Historical Protection Act** and its companion HB 2648 (Biedermann). We also urge you to support HB 583, the **Texas Hero Protection Act** as authored by Rep. James White.

The Coalition specifically calls on Senator Pat Fallon to file the necessary background and hearing requests to move SB 226 in the State Affairs Committee, thereby standing and fighting for his campaign promise to protect Texas monuments and history.

Recently, an independent poll was taken to gauge public reaction to protecting



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COLLIN COUNTY CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS

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Confederate monuments. This poll specifically asked the tough questions regarding Confederate monuments to distinguish them from the more universally loved Texas Independence monuments and memorials. The poll found that Texans back monument protection with 64% "for" and 26% "against." In fact, poll results show 60% of Hispanics and 35% of African-Americans support protecting Texas' Confederate monuments. Indeed, the **Texas Hero Protection Act** was filed by Rep. James White (R-HD 19), a five-term, African-American member of the Texas House. **White's HB 583 is an effort to preserve and protect Texas historical monuments and memorials – no matter the contemporaneous social norms of today as applied to a historical figure of the past.**

Statues, memorials, and monuments are expressions of a past generation's free speech. To silence the First Amendment Rights of the past is to silence discussion of those historical eras and the cultural, moral, and political results of those times. Texas should not hide or erase historical figures because today's culture rejects a past society's practices, customs, and norms. Indeed, Texas should seek to educate future generations about The Great Cause of Liberty for all mankind with factual historical examples – both good and bad.

Texans should not allow political demagogues to erase history in order to score political points. Note that these decisions are never the result of a vote by the people, but typically are the result of a liberal city council's agenda. **The vast majority of the citizens never hear about the efforts to remove a statue until it is too late.**

We end this Coalition appeal to you with a recent example of principled courage that took place in Alabama. When Alabama officials set about removing Confederate flags, statues and monuments at a frenetic pace, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed into law the [Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017](#), intended to preserve ALL of Alabama's history. Not only did this Governor have the courage to sign the bill, she released [political ads](#) crediting herself for protecting Alabama's historic monuments. *Surely, our Texas leaders have a similar courage to step up and fight to protect this great state's heritage and freedom.*

The Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition asks that the Texas Legislature honor the public expressions of past generations of Texans by supporting and passing legislation to protect our state's statues and monuments.

Sincerely, the undersigned grassroots political leaders,*



JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC
(903) 360-2858 and [redacted]

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Christopher Ekstrom, Chair, Conservative Response Team, HD 108, SD 32, Dallas



Dale & Mary Huls, President & Secretary, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

C.R. "Dick" Saulsbury, Saulsbury Industries, HD 81, SD 31, Odessa

Cathie Adams, 1st VP, Eagle Forum, Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Joe Adams, Chair, Delta County Republican Party, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

LaDaune Ashley, Precinct Chair, Brazoria County Republican Party, HD 29, SD 11, Liverpool

Deborah Bailey, Secretary, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Dottie Barnes, co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Annette Bennett, Precinct Chair, Gillespie County GOP; Fredericksburg Tea Party; HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Geri Bentley, Treasurer, Clear Lake Tea Party, HD 25, SD 11, League City

Beth Biesel, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 108, SD 16, Dallas

Elena Blake, HD 105, SD 16, Irving

Joanna Bowen, Secretary, Lake Country Republican Club, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

KC Broyles, Vice President, Clear Lake Tea Party, HD 23, SD 11, League City

Wes Brumit, Chair, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL) HD 9, SD 1, Longview

Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Kelly Canon, Co-Founder, SE Tarrant County Tea Party, Precinct Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party, HD 94, SD 10, Arlington

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Janna Castloo, Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Ernie & Della Clark, past president & member, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler



Craig Cosgray, President, Highland Lakes Tea Party, HD 20, SD 24, Spicewood

Alice Cromwell, HD 102, SD 32, Dallas

Bill Culpepper, member Grassroots America – We the People PAC; Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Don Dixon, Longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, HD 121, SD 25, San Antonio

Jack Dixon, HD 33, SD 30, Prosper

Jim & Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Carol Doucet, Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County & Navarro County TEA Party, HD 8, SD 22, Frost

Maria Espinoza, Co-Founder & National Director, The Remembrance Project, HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Mary E. (Betty) Fallert, Steering Committee Member, Kaufman County TEA Party, HD 4, SD 2, Crandall

Bob Farris, Founder, Citizens Matter, HD 64, SD 12, Hickory Creek

Mary Anne Farrow, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Jennifer Flanders, Member, Smith County Republican Women and Grassroots America – We the People, HD 6, CD 1, Tyler

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall, HD 47, SD 24, Austin

Leland Freeman, Board Member, Central Texas Republican Assembly, HD 49, SD 14, Austin

Rena & David French, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People, HD 11, SD 1, Bullard

Bill & Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Gary Gentz, Member, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Eustace

Lori Granados, President, Central Texas Republican Assembly, HD 48, SD 14, Austin

Deborah Grimes, Communications Director, Project Fort Worth, HD 92, SD 10, Hurst

Suzanne Guggenheim, President, Coastal Bend Tea Party, HD 32, SD 20, Corpus Christi



Sharon Guthrie, Secretary & Precinct Chair, Smith County GOP, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Stanley Cofer, Founder, Texas Minority Conservative & Republican Coalition, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF), HD 53, SD 24, Ingram

Barbara Harless, Co-Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots, HD 98, SD 1, Atlanta

Dr. Carole Haynes, Founder, American Citizens Matter, HD 64, SD 12, Hickory Creek

Cara Hill, Member, Smith County Republican Women, HD 6, CD 1, Tyler

Jeremiah Hunter, Delegate, 2018 Texas GOP Convention; HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Bill Hussey, Founder & Vice President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Kathy Hussey, President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Rick Jackson, Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party, HD 4, SD 2, Forney

Robert Kecseg, SREC SD 1, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Sandra Kindt, Washington County Republican Party Chairman; Washington County TEA Party, HD 13, SD 18, Brenham

Jackie King, co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 8, SD 22, Purdon

Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRE, HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Robin & Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc., Cleveland

Craig Licciardi, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party; Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Flint

Ann Lieber, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, HD 214, SD 30, Prosper

Dr. Ivette Lozano, Former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly, HD 108, SD 2, Dallas

Terry Lynch, past President, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Carroll Maxwell, Past President, Collin County Conservative Republicans, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

Janet Mayne, Committee Member, Llano Tea Party, CD 24, Llano, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Lyleann McClellan Thee, President, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo



Morgan McComb, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 63, SD 26, Prosper

Scott McDonald, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Carol Meyer, Gregg County Republican Club, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Evelyn Montalvo, VP Programs, Fort Bend Republican Patriots Club, HD 26, SD 18, Richmond

Holly Muskus, Grassroots America - We the People; Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Michael & Susan Najvar, Deep East Texas TEA Party, HD 14, SD 18, Gonzales

Naomi Narvaiz, Former SREC for SD 21, HD 45, SD 21, San Marcos

Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

Michael Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives, HD 61, SD 30, Fort Worth

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections, HD 50, SD 14, Austin

Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Eugene Ralph Sr., 2nd VP, SW Dallas Republican Club, HD 109, SD 2, Dallas

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Connie Ratisseau, Board Member, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Mark Reid, President, Plano Citizens' Coalition, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Pastor Marty Reid, Trinity Family Church, HD 4, SD 2, Forney

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party, HD 24, SD 9, Fort Worth

Marty Rhymes, Vice Chair, Gregg County Republican Party, HD 7, SD 1, White Oak

Kathi Rivard, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, Golden Corridor Republican Women, Frisco Tea Party, HD 70, SD 30, Prosper

Tanya Robertson, SREC, Senate District 11, HD 129, SD 11, Seabrook

George Rodriguez, Broadcast Activist - El Conservador, HD 121, SD 25, San Antonio

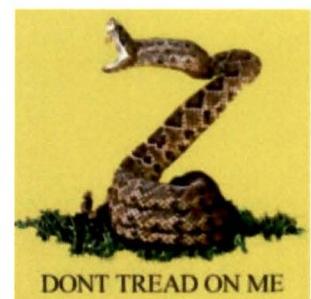
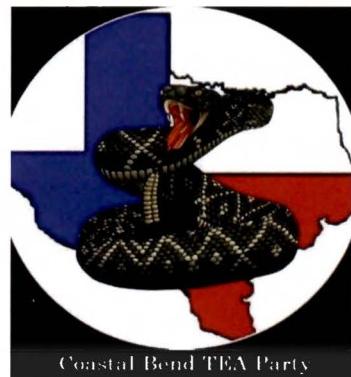
Barry Schlech, PhD, Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Josie D Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Rusk

Bryan Slaton, SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition leader, HD 2, SD 2, Royse City

Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) SREC SD 2; SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition leader, HD 113, SD 2, Sunnyvale

Irene Smith, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg



Cass County Patriots



Angela Smith, longtime conservative activist, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Alan Smith, Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Joan Somma, Board Member, TFIRE, HD 134, SD 17, Houston

Jim Speiran, Past Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People; Smith County GOP Precinct Chair, HD 1, SD 1, Bullard

Jim Stanley, Chairman, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

Penny Story, Founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists, HD 10, SD 22, Red Oak

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, HD 18, SD 3, Cleveland

Paul Sumruld, Conservative Activist, HD 99, SD 12, Fort Worth

Debbie Terry, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 12, HD 64, SD 12, Denton

Kaaren Teuber, Coordinator, Texoma Patriots, HD 62, SD 30, Van Alstyne

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC, HD 15, SD 4, Magnolia

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project, HD 5, SD 1, Hideaway

Karl Voigtsberger, Former SREC SD 8, Board Member, McKinney Tea Party, HD 67, SD 8, Richardson

Kenneth Weaver, conservative activist, HD 33, SD 30, Prosper

Ken West, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Hawkins

John White, conservative activist, HD 33, SD 2, Rockwall

Gary Whitehorn, Board Member, We the People - Longview, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Maggie Wright, founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Ruth York, VP, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, HD 60, SD 28, Cisco

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation, HD 53, SD 24, Bandera

Connie Curry, founder, West TX Conservative Leadership, HD 83, SD 28, Lubbock

Janet Baber, Smith County GOP Precinct Chair; HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Sue Evenwel, SREC for SD 1; GOP Chair, Titus County; HD 5, SD 1, Mt Pleasant



Texas Minorities
Conservatives & Republicans
East Texas Engagement Assembly



Judy Brady, President, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 54, SD 24, Salado

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum, HD 98, SD 10, Grapevine

Jan Shedd, Surrogate, The Remembrance Project, HD 4, SD 2, Kaufman

CC: The Honorable Texas Governor Greg Abbott



*Organizations are listed for identification purposes only.

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April 12, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

RE: Permanent Property Tax Relief

Dear Governor Abbott:

With billions in excess revenue flowing into state coffers over the next two years, Texas lawmakers have an unprecedented opportunity to provide **permanent property tax relief** to all Texas families, but rather than return money to taxpayers in the form of meaningful property tax relief, legislators have gone on a spending spree.

According to an analysis by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, the Texas House plan for spending (HB1) is up 13.8% in all funds (all state funds + federal funds) and 14.4% in just state funds (**excluding Harvey recovery dollars**), meaning both far exceed the [Conservative Texas Budget limits](#) of 8% in population growth plus inflation. The Senate's budget at \$239.1 billion, excluding Harvey money and including supplemental appropriations, is up 10 percent in total, also above the Conservative Texas Budget limit, but closer than the House's budget.

So far, this legislative session, little has been done to protect taxpayers or encourage conservatives to fight for Republicans in 2020. **We call on you to demand better of our Republican legislators before they surrender the state to Democrat control.**

Republican lawmakers have a choice; spend the new windfall and grow government or return it to taxpayers in the form of lower school tax bills.



Texas Eagle Forum



Unfortunately, current proposals, such as House Bill 3, plan to spend up to 70 percent of this surplus on higher spending, rather than on reducing school property tax bills. That's \$6.3 billion in new public education spending *in addition to* another \$2 billion to pay for student enrollment growth.

Only 30 percent—or \$2.7 billion of the \$9 billion of new state spending—would go toward reducing local school property tax rates by an average of 4 cents per \$100 of property valuation. For a Texan with a \$200,000 home, they could see annual savings of \$80; however, if their appraisal value increases 3 percent or more over the next two years, homeowners will never see or feel permanent tax relief.

As proposed by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Republican lawmakers should pass a bill that would force the State of Texas to make relief permanent, by dedicating 90 percent of all surplus state revenue to lowering school tax bills.

In addition to failing to propose significant and permanent tax relief, Republican lawmakers are not pushing to phase out the unfair and unpopular wealth redistribution scheme known as the “Robin Hood” property tax, which overtaxes an increasing number of Texas families each year.

While lawmakers supporting HB 3 claim it would “reduce Robin Hood recapture by 38 percent,” their own numbers prove this to be false. HB 3 would only prevent recapture from increasing; it would *not* reduce recapture!

According to the Texas Education Agency, total recapture statewide was **\$4.74 billion** in the 2018-19 biennium. Upon passage of HB 3, recapture would remain flat at **\$4.7 billion** over the next two years (2020-2021).

Governor, along with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, you have supported an important property tax reform to help slow the growth of property tax bills. A necessary component of any such reform is empowering taxpayers with more control over tax burdens by requiring cities, counties, and school districts to obtain voter approval for annual tax hikes of 2.5 percent or more – a policy supported by 77 percent of Texans (Quinnipiac University poll released 02.26.19). These tax hike elections must be required to be held on a November uniform election date.

But property tax reform is not enough. Slowing the growth of stifling tax bills is not enough.



Texans are taxed enough already and will not be satisfied with lawmakers if they merely protect the status quo. Texans want, need, and deserve a net reduction in their property tax bills, and the state has the money through existing revenue streams to provide permanent tax relief, without raising new taxes or fees.

We call on you to push Republican lawmakers to pass property tax reform (SB2/HB2) with the 2.5 percent rollback rate applied to **every local taxing entity** in the state—including school districts—and require automatic November tax ratification elections. We strongly oppose any effort to water down the legislation.

We recognize that whether funding comes from state coffers or local coffers, it all ultimately comes from the wallets of taxpayers. Statewide, property tax increases have greatly outpaced the average taxpayer's ability to pay. From 2012 to 2017, **local property tax revenues soared by almost 40 percent across the entire state**, according to the Comptroller's Biennial Property Tax Report. That's well above population growth and inflation increases, which rose just 15.3 percent.

We call on Republican lawmakers to pass permanent tax relief by increasing the state's share of public education spending. A **majority** of surplus state revenue—\$4.6 billion, or more—should be dedicated to buying down school M&O property tax rates.

Likewise, we also call on Republican lawmakers to make property tax relief permanent, by amending law to require that 90 percent of future surplus state revenue be dedicated to lowering school M&O property taxes, until it's entirely repealed. Once repealed, Robin Hood would be eliminated, and the average Texan would see a 40 percent reduction in their total property tax burden.

Governor Abbott, whether this session will be remembered as one in which legislators delivered on long-made promises to taxpayers **or marked the end of Republican control of the Texas legislature**, it rests in your hands. We are counting on you.

Respectfully, the undersigned Texas grassroots political leaders, *

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Michael Quinn Sullivan, CEO, Empower Texans

Cathie Adams, 1st VP, Eagle Forum, Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Tracy Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum, HD 98, SD 9, Grapevine



Joe Adams, Chair, Delta County Republican Party, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

Sam Anderson, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Flower Mound Area Republican Club, HD 63, SD 12, Flower Mound

Tami Andrews, Community Affairs Chair, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Margie Arens, 1st VP, Denton Republican Women's Club, HD 64, Argyle

Sharon Armke, Concerned Parents of Texas, HD 45, SD 25, Dripping Springs

Jennifer Audet, Treasurer, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gladewater

Janet Baber, Prec. Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Russ Bafford, Sr., President, Robson Ranch Republican Club, HD 64, SD 12, Denton

Deborah Bailey, Secretary, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Brett Baldwin, Precinct Chairman, Collin County Republican Party, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Dottie Barnes, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Marcia Barnett, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Parliamentarian, Republican Women of Denton, Collin & Dallas County, HD 65, SD 12, Carrollton

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Jimmy & Jean Bassinger, HD 65, SD 12, Highland Village

Peter Batura, Vice President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 132, SD 17, Katy

Susan Bayne, Precinct Chair, Bexar County Republican Party, HD 122, SD 25, San Antonio

Annette Bennett, Prec. Chair, Gillespie County Republican Party, Fredericksburg Tea Party; HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Beth Biesel, Co-Chair, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 108, SD 16, University Park

Bill Bingham, past Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 14, SD 5, College Station

Tammy Blair, past Chairman, Cherokee County Republican Party, East Texans for Liberty, HD 11, SD 3, Bullard

Elena Blake, Irving Republican Women, HD 105, SD 16, Irving



Richard Bohnert, Fredericksburg Tea Party, Llano Tea Party, Convention of States, HD 53, SD 24, Comfort

Joanna Bowen, Secretary, Lake Country Republican Club, Hawkins/Holly Lake Republican Club, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Judy Brady, President, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 54, SD 24, Salado

Barrett Breedlove, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Sherry Breedlove, East Texans for Liberty, Big Sandy

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

Wes Brumit, Chairman, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL), HD 9, SD 1, Longview

Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Adam Cahn, Austin political blogger, Cahnman's Musings, HD 51, SD 21, Austin

Art Cameron, former Prec. Chair, Smith Co. Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Tyler

David Carter, Central Texas TEA Party, John Birch Society, HD 55, SD 24, Temple

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Ramiro Castillo, Pastor, Southern Oaks Baptist Church, HD 14, SD 5, College Station

Janna Castloo, Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Della Clark, Charter Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Anne Coker, Board Member, Project Fort Worth, HD 93, SD 10, Arlington

Dr. Dwayne "Doc" Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler

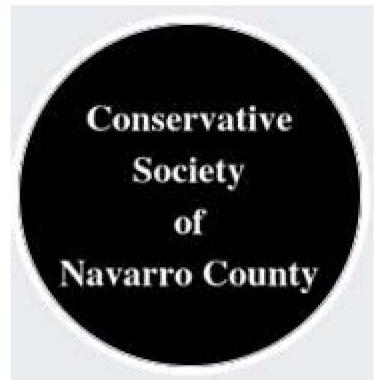
Wayne Coltrane, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, HD 67, SD 8, Plano

Craig Cosgray, President, Highland Lakes Tea Party, HD 20, SD 24, Spicewood

Connie Curry, Founder, West Texas Conservative Leadership, HD 83, SD 28, Lubbock

McKenna Dallmeyer, Convention of States, HD 136, SD 5, Cedar Park

Michelle McWilliams Davis, District Captain, Convention of States, HD 24, SD 24, League City



William Decker IV, Edom Tea Party, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Luke DiSilvestro, HD 4, SD 3, Brownsboro

Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, HD 121, SD 25, San Antonio

Frank Dobrovolny, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Jacksonville

Jim & Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Carol Doucet, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County & Navarro County TEA Party, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Terri DuBose, Precinct Chair, Real County Republican Party, former SREC SD 19, HD 53, SD 19, Leakey

Trevor Dupuy, Founder & Coordinator, Horseshoe Bay Conservative Caucus, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay

Rick & Kathy Eisenbach, President, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

William Ely, Director, Cypress Texas Tea Party, HD 130, SD 7, Cypress

Sharon Emmert, self-retired Smith County Commissioner, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Sue Evenwel, SREC, Senate District 1; Chair, Titus County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mt Pleasant

Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Betty Fallert, Membership Chair, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Crandall

Mary Anne Farrow, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Davis Ford, 1st VP, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 55, SD 24, Temple

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall, HD 47, SD 24, Austin

Kat Fox, past Steering Committee Member, Kaufman County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 2, Mabank

Rena & David French, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People, HD 11, SD 3, Bullard

Bill & Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Gary Gentz, Member, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Eustace

Jill Glover, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 63, SD 12, Denton

Daniel Greer, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas, HD 17, SD 14, Elgin



Suezette Griffin, Past President, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Pearland

Suzanne Guggenheim, President, Coastal Bend Tea Party, HD 31, SD 20, Corpus Christi

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF), HD 53, SD 24, Ingram

David Halvorson, SREC SD 12, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Barbara Harless, Co-Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Danny & Marilyn Harris, HD 106, SD 30, Sanger

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots, HD 98, SD 1, Atlanta

Carole Haynes, Ph.D., Founder, American Citizens Matter, HD 64, SD 12, Hickory Creek

Jill Youngblood Hilber, VP Legislation, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Martin Hilber, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Greg Holton, Regional Captain, Convention of States Texas, HD 2, SD 2, Sulphur Springs

Steve & Alfiya House, HD 3, SD 4, Montgomery

Connie Hudson, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, 3rd Vice Chair, Legacy Republican Club, HD 106, SD 12, The Colony

Mary & Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Jeremiah Hunter, 2018 Delegate, Republican Party of TX Convention, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Bill Hussey, Founder & Vice President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Eric & Mirielle Inman, Prec. Chair, Denton County GOP, HD 63, SD 26, Ponder

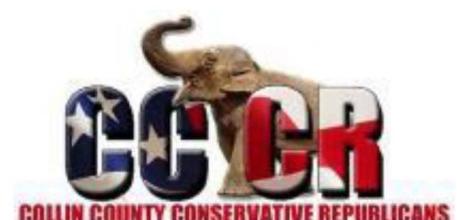
Rick Jackson, Precinct Chair, Kaufman County Republican Party, Vice Chairman, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Forney

Wallace Johnson, Precinct Chair, Brazos County Republican Party, Bryan

Hannah Jones, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Sharon Jones, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Denton County Conservative Coalition, Legacy Republican Club, HD 106, SD 12, The Colony

Jackie King, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 8, SD 22, Purdon



Michael Kinzie, Founder, TEAParty911.com, HD 130, SD 7, Tomball

Larry Korkmas, President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Loretta Kusek, HD 119, SD 28, Live Oak

Robin & Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc., Cleveland

Amanda L'Esperance, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

Craig Licciardi, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party; Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Flint

Alice Linahan, Vice President, Women on the Wall, HD 63, SD 12, Northlake

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Dr. Ivette Lozano, former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly, HD 108, SD 2, Dallas

Susan Lucas, Bryan/College Station TEA Party, HD 14, SD 5, Bryan

Terry Lynch, past President, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Dalton Lytle, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Tom Maddox, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Maria Martinez, Houston Inner Loop Grassroots, HD 132, SD 13, Houston

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Ginger McDaniel, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Membership Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 64, SD 12, Argyle

Gloria McDonald, Technology Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 63, SD 12, Bartonville

Dennis McKee, Treasurer, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Kemp

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1

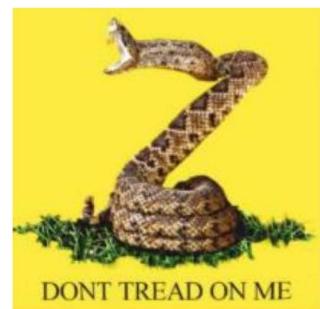
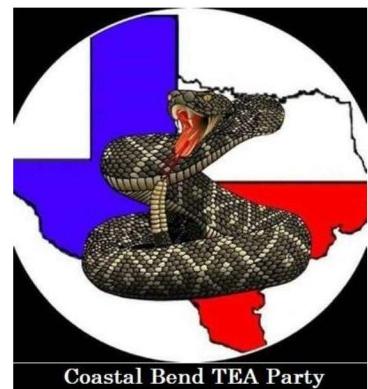
Greg McReynolds, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Mark Metzger, Prec. Chair, Bexar Co. GOP, HD 122, SD 25, San Antonio

Terri Miller, Founder/President, STAR Republicans, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Dr. Royce Mitchell, Precinct Chair, Brazoria County Republican Party, HD 29, SD 11, Manvel

Thomas Morgan, Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler



Cass County Patriots



Frank Motsenbocker, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Michael & Susan Najvar, Deep East Texas TEA Party, HD 17, SD 18, Gonzales

Naomi Narvaiz, Former State Republican Executive Committee SD 21, HD 45, SD 21, San Marcos

Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

Michael Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives, HD 61, SD 30, Fort Worth

Mike Openshaw, Founder, Texas Legislative Watch, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Karla O'quin, San Angelo TEA Party, San Angelo Republican Women, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Darlene Pendery, HD 63, SD 12, Flower Mound

Tillie Perkins, President, RED Texas Forum, HD 107, SD 2, Mesquite

Jerry Phillips, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Rene Poe, Vice President, Hood County Tea Party, HD 60, SD 22, Granbury

Kathy Ponce, President, Freedom Tea Party Patriots, HD 10, SD 22, Maypearl

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections, HD 50, SD 14, Copperas Cove

Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Jody Quimby, Board Member, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 12, SD 5, Bryan

Mark Ramsey, SREC SD 7, Chair, SREC Legislative Priorities Committee, HD 150, SD 7, Spring

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

John Rappazzo, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Judson

Connie Ratisseau, Board Member, Clear Lake TEA Party & Phillip Ratisseau, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party, HD 24, SD 9, Fort Worth

Marty Rhymes, Vice Chair, Republican Party of Gregg County, Treasurer, Republican Club of Gregg County, HD 7, SD 1, White Oak

Kathi-Ann Rivard, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, Golden Corridor Republican Women, Frisco Tea Party, HD 70, SD 30, Prosper

Tanya Robertson, SREC, Senate District 11, HD 129, SD 11, Seabrook



Ruben Salinas, SD 12, Roanoke

Barry Schlech, PhD, Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Rusk

Jan Shedd, Surrogate, The Remembrance Project, HD 4, SD 2, Kaufman

Bryan Slaton, Leader, SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition, Vice President, Ethics and Political Economy Center (EPEC), HD 2, SD 2, Royse City

Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) SREC SD 2; SD 2 Grassroots Coalition leader, HD 113, SD 2, Sunnyvale

Angela Smith, Founder & Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Alan Smith, Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Liz Smith, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Dr. Gregory Smith, Republican Election Clerk, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Joan Somma, Board Member, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 134, SD 17, Houston

Jim Speiran, Past Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, Finance Committee Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Bullard

Jim Stanley, Chairman, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Georgia Stapleton, Board Member, Project Fort Worth, HD 97, SD 10, Fort Worth

Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

Kathy Stonaker, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Heather Stoner, President, Smith County Republican Women, Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

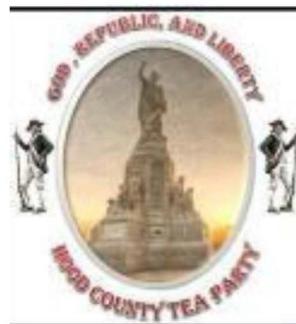
Penny Story, founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists, HD 10, SD 22, Red Oak

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State LLC, HD 18, SD 3, Cleveland

Mike Sweeney, Central Texas Tea Party, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Jimmie Taylor, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler

Debbie Terry, SREC Committeewoman, Senate District 12, HD 64, SD 12, Denton



Kaaren Teuber, Coordinator, Texoma Patriots, HD 62, SD 30, Van Alstyne

Elizabeth Theiss, President, Stop the Magnet, HD 134, SD 15, Houston

Jim Thompson, Conservative Grassroots Coalition SD 2, HD 2, SD 2, Sulphur Springs

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC, HD 15, SD 4, Magnolia

Bela Toth, Board Member, Pearland Tea Party, Pearland

Jerry Trollinger, Chairman, Van Zandt County Tea Party, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project, HD 5, SD 1, Hideway

Lou Vail, Chair, Knox County Republican Party, HD 69, SD 28, Knox City

Karl Voigtsberger, Former SREC SD 8, Board Member, McKinney Tea Party, HD 67, SD 8, Richardson

Carol Walliser, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

David Watts, Board Member, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Desiree Watts, Legislative Committee Chair, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Brenda White, Precinct Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party, HD 98, SD 9, Keller

John White, past Master at Arms, Rockwall GOP, HD 33, SD 2, Rockwall

Gary Whitehorn, Board Member, We the People - Longview, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Marshall Winegar, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 106, SD 26, The Colony

Allison Winter, Montgomery County Tea Party; SREC SD 4, HD 15, SD 4, Spring

Maggie Wright, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Ruth York, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, HD 60, SD 28, Cisco

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation, HD 53, SD 24, Bandera



This letter was signed by 195 grassroots political leaders, representing 144 unique organizations, groups, and districts across Texas.

**CC: The Honorable Lt. Governor Dan Patrick
The Honorable Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen**



The Texas Conservative
Grassroots Coalition
is the premier project
of
Grassroots America
We the People PAC.

*Organizations listed for
identification purposes only.

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MT: 86SB11 - CON

MT: 86HB18 - CON

Coalition United in Strong Opposition to SB 11, HB 18, HB 19

The Honorable Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

May 29, 2019

Re: Request for Veto of SB 11, HB18, HB19

Dear Governor Abbott,

We are a coalition of groups and individuals, some partisan and non-partisan, who have come together in opposition to Senate Bill 11 and House Bills 18 and 19.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to make schools safer. Regrettably, we cannot support these bills. SB 11 contained several features that directly addressed school safety. However, it also had provisions of concern. While some groups attempted to get these concerns addressed, the bill was only made worse.

We believe that the use of a psychiatric consortium that has inherent connections to the pharmaceutical industry simply puts Texas children at risk of dangerous psychotropic drugging and policies that lead to same.

As Attorney General you sued numerous drug companies over illegal marketing schemes. We know you are well aware of just how far drug companies can reach into our state programs. In 2012 you settled a lawsuit with Johnson & Johnson related to the marketing of an antipsychotic drug for unapproved populations including children.¹ This was done under the Texas Medication Algorithm Project. Several faculty members from UT medical schools were involved. In other instances, state employees resigned from their jobs over allegations that they worked with drug companies to promote their product in state programs.²

We do not believe a mental health consortium is necessary to school safety. That it is composed of the psychiatry departments of our medical schools; and as our medical schools work closely with pharmaceutical companies, this creates a conflict that cannot be cured.

¹ <https://www.texastribune.org/2012/01/19/state-settles-largest-ever-medicaid-fraud-suit/>

² <https://www.texastribune.org/2015/04/17/terrell-state-psychiatrists-resign-after-accusatio/>



MT: 86HB19 - CON



southern baptists
of texas convention



Texas Eagle Forum

WomenOnTheWall.Org™



North Texas Citizens Lobby

GRASSROOTS AMERICA
WE THE PEOPLE
UNITE ★ EDUCATE ★ EMPOWER
Political Action Committee

AMERICAN
OVERGARDEN
Log under JoAnn Fleming

TX-GOV-19-1114-A-000050

Assessment for “potential” danger is unreliable, will create injustice

The idea that one could pinpoint those who will “potentially” become dangerous and then get them the “help they need” is abhorrent to us. **No one can predict evil.** Even if they could, there is nothing to suggest that mental health treatment can prevent it. Absent an immediate and obvious threat, there is no screening, assessment, or interview that can dependably predict future dangerousness. Even the American Psychiatric Association has stated that when it comes to long term predictions of future dangerousness, they get it wrong in at least two out of three cases.³

How many innocent children will be labeled as potential threats and then deprived of precious liberties?

A mental health supervisor for Austin Independent School District’s campus police testified on HB10 that AISD alone had referred over 875 students to Child Protective Services over mental health issues so far this school year. In questioning, it sounded like many of these cases revolved around differences of opinion with parents.

We believe that foster children, special needs children, and children of color will be especially vulnerable to such programs because of biases and stereotypes.

Threat Assessments Are Subjective: Therefore, Mistakes Will Be Made - These Are Not Harmless

Using Threat Assessment Teams to scrutinize children, question children, and offer subjective assessments of risk, without providing true information on the frailties of such assessments, and without full Miranda warnings is an affront to parental and civil rights. The fact that the Texas School Safety Center website features at least one model from another state in which everyone, including the child, is questioned **before the child's parents are brought in** make the prospect of Threat Assessment Teams even more disturbing.⁴

We would remind you that Nikolas Cruz was apparently the subject of a threat assessment AND mental health treatment.⁵ This certainly did not prevent the Parkland shooting.

Mental screening for “at-risk” students is notoriously inaccurate with false positive rates as high as 84%.⁶ What defines “at risk”? The problem with mental screening in general and with labeling “at-risk” children with a psychiatric label is that the already admittedly subjective diagnostic criteria are even more difficult to apply to children. The World Health Organization (not known as a conservative group) has said: “Childhood and adolescence being developmental phases, it is difficult to draw clear boundaries between phenomena that are part of normal development and others that are abnormal.”⁷

³<https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Directories/Library-and-Archive/amicus-briefs/amicus-1982-barefoot.pdf>

⁴https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55674542e4b074ead07152ba/1/5b442226562fa71de6f5bc38/1531191846207/LAUSD_Threat_Assessment_CHECKLIST.305182908.pdf

⁵<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/parkland/florida-school-shooting/fl-ne-nikolas-cruz-threat-assessment-20190124-story.html>

⁶<https://thenationalpulse.com/commentary/parents-beware-mentalscreening-students-ramps-up-texas/>

⁷<https://thenationalpulse.com/commentary/turning-teachers-psychotherapists-willnot-prevent-schoolshootings/>,
<http://edlibertywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/School-Safety-Memo-to-Commission.pdf>

THE RUTHERFORD INSTITUTE



We believe that as a result of this mental health approach, perfectly normal children will be given subjective mental health labels, or viewed as potential threats, affecting their rights now and in the future.

Mental Health Education is problematic

We believe that mental health education, as envisioned in SB11 and HB18, is more likely to become an indoctrination tool, a marketing tool, than it is to help children. There are at least two major cases in Texas where books, coloring books, or similar materials were used to either fill hospital beds or steer children toward medication.^{8,9} In addition, some schools are using mindfulness programs that include practices one would associate with Eastern religious practices. This is objectionable to some families. **We believe parents, families, and their care providers are best positioned to provide unbiased information, and to decide when or if their children are ready for that discussion.**

Psychotropic Drugs, Suicide and Violence

Multiple school shooters and other perpetrators of mass violence have been under the influence of psychotropic drugs or withdrawing from them.¹⁰ Many drugs are associated with risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors, aggression, hostility, agitation or other violent effects. While legislation was filed that would have at least explored psychotropic drugs in relation to suicide, it went nowhere. We do not support legislation that could exacerbate the problem.

Opening Schools to Private Mental Health Providers Invites Fraud, Abuse

HB18 supports the idea of schools partnering with private mental health providers for those services. This is not otherwise defined. As the bill author filed another bill allowing hospitals to run school mental health clinics, we can only assume HB18 includes private psychiatric hospitals. **At this time, a psychiatric hospital company in Arlington is under a criminal indictment alleging, among other things, that patients were illegally held against their will.**¹¹ Other hospitals are under suit over similar issues.¹² Our nation's largest chain of psychiatric hospitals is being sued by stockholders alleging similar behavior.¹³ This chain of hospitals has 15 psychiatric hospitals licensed in Texas, plus other facilities under different licensure. In 1992, Texas State Senator Mike Moncrief testified that private psych hospitals in Texas had entered into arrangements with Texas schools to provide counseling services and then referred students for inpatient treatment.¹⁴ **We do not want our children to become cash cows for fraudulent schemes.**

⁸ Texas State Senator Mike Moncrief, Congressional testimony, 1992

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d00282733c;view=1up;seq=15>

⁹ <https://www.infowars.com/creepy-coloring-book-tells-kids-to-take-drugs/>

¹⁰ <https://www.cchrint.org/school-shooters/>

¹¹ <https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/community/arlington/article223102785.html>

¹² <https://www.khou.com/article/news/lawsuits-patients-held-against-their-will-at-dallas-behavioral-hospital/285-509394385>

¹³ <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/legal-regulatory-issues/uhs-can-t-dodge-claims-it-held-patients-illegally-investors-say.html>

¹⁴ <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d00282733c;view=1up;seq=99>



THE
REMEMBRANCE
PROJECT



We the Parents

A coalition of Texans securing the blessings of liberty



Concerned
PARENTS OF TEXAS

In Summary

We believe vigilance, hardened campuses and other direct measures, not mental health, not subjective risk assessments would better improve school safety.

We believe that families, their chosen communities, and their churches are charged with our children's social, emotional, and moral education. There has been increasing controversy over schools teaching about family values, relationships, belief systems or behaviors. Transparency has also been a problem. We do not support legislation that would allow our role, our God given duty, to be undermined by the state.

We recognize that some families may choose psychiatric treatments, including drugs, for their children. We do not believe it is in the best interest of the state or our children for these services to be promoted in schools. This is a family matter.

We believe these bills open up our schools and Texas's children to fraud and abuse.

We believe these bills favor industry, not families.

Four times as many teens in the U.S. die from accidents as from suicide.¹⁵ Nearly four times as many die from accidents as from homicide.¹⁶ Therefore we find it curious that our state is spending hundreds of millions in these bills for suicide and violence prevention, and not one dime for accident prevention. We want to know why.

We believe that these bills feed into further data on our children being collected and shared.

We believe that these bills codify unsettled science, with no consensus, such as trauma informed care and adverse childhood experiences, into law.

We want our schools to return to their original intent with the focus on academics – reading, writing, mathematics. Let parents and families decide what their children need. Let our churches, communities, and private doctors be the ones we go to when we need help.



¹⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db37.htm>

¹⁶ Ibid

We believe that the issue of school safety needs more seats at the table, and must involve a diversity of views from parents, faith-based counselors, ministers and groups concerned with our liberties to discuss what is best for our children. These bills do not reflect that diversity.

Therefore, we request that SB11, HB18, and HB19 be vetoed.

Signed, concerned community and opinion leaders, *

Lee Spiller, Executive Director, Citizens Commission on Human Rights-Texas

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

Alice Linahan, Vice-President, Women on the Wall

Barbara Harless, co-Founder North Texas Citizens Lobby

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Cathie Adams, 1st VP, Eagle Forum, Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Kevin Freeman, Founder, National Security Investment Consultant Institute (NSIC)

Rachel Malone, Texas Director, Gun Owners of America, HD 50, SD 14, Manor

Beth Biesel, Co-Chair, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 108, SD

Pastor Stephan Broden, State Republican Executive Committeeman SD 23, Gone2Far Movement, Dallas16, University Park

Ruth York, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, HD 60, SD 28, Cisco

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

J. Clayton Young M.D., FACOG, Medical Freedom Activist, The Woodlands

Virginia Young, M.S., Medical Freedom Activist, The Woodlands

Jerri Lynn Ward, J.D., Travis County Precinct Chair, Pct. 312, Lakeway, TX

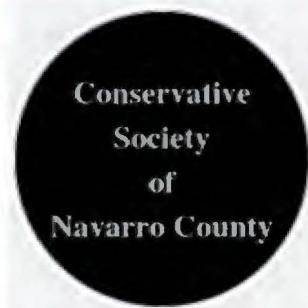
Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director, East Texans for Liberty PAC

Mary & Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

John Whitehead, The Rutherford Institute

Jill Glover, Licensed Professional Counselor; Precinct Chair, Denton County GOP, HD 63, SD 12, Denton



Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Desiree Watts, Legislative Chair, East Texans for Liberty PAC

Michael Olcott, Ph.D., Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives, HD 61, SD 30, Fort Worth

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall

Lacey Hull, Co-founder, We the Parents Coalition

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Nancy Dillard, President, Denton County Conservative Coalition; Prec. 2022 Chair, Denton County GOP

Maria Espinoza, Co-founder & National Director, The Remembrance Project

Deborah Simmons, Take Back the SHAC

A. Patrick Huff, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor - Houston, Retired Public School Principal

Meg Bakich, Concerned Highland Park (HPISD) Parent, Former HPISD School Board Candidate

Randy Houchins, Concerned Leander ISD Parent, Mechanical Engineer Math Advocate

Penny Story, founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists, HD 10, SD 22, Red Oak

Mary Bowen, Texas teacher, Cedar Creek

Moira T. Dolan, MD, Internal Medicine Physician, Austin

Jennifer Fleck, Concerned Texas Parent and Attorney, Lake Travis

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State LLC, HD 18, SD 3, Cleveland

Krista McIntire, Director of Family Rights Advocacy

Ann Newman, Speak Up Texas, Boerne

Tish Whitten, Political Donor, Dallas

Celise Hamann, Teacher, Cypress Fairbanks ISD

Joel and Karen Starnes, Organization for American Values

Barbette W. Stone, Houston

Adam Cahn, Austin political blogger, Cahnman's Musings, HD 51, SD 21, Austin

Ann Lieber, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, HD 214, SD 30, Prosper

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo



Barrett Breedlove, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler
 Betty Anderson, President, Montgomery County Eagle Forum, HD 15, SD 4, Shenandoah
 Bill & Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank
 Bill Bingham, past Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 14, SD 5, College Station
 Bill Culpepper, GAWTP; Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse
 Bill Hussey, Founder & Vice President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano
 Cara Hill, Member, Smith County Republican Women, HD 6, CD 1, Tyler
 Carey Austin, President, Northwood Republican Women, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas
 Carol Doucet, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County & Navarro County TEA Party, HD 89, SD 22, Frost
 Charlie Levitt, Board Member, Northeast Tarrant Tea Party, HD 91, SD 9, Haltom City
 Craig Licciardi, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party; Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Flint
 Crystal Main, Precinct Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party, HD 91, SD 9, North Richland Hills
 Dave & Mary Fallert, Membership Chair, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Crandall
 David Halvorson, SREC SD 12, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine
 David Rasco, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler
 Deborah Bailey, Secretary, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo
 Della Clark, Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler
 Denise & Randy Rives, President, Star Republican Women, Precinct Chair, Llano County Republican Party, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay
 Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse
 Dottie Barnes, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 89, SD 22, Frost
 Dr. Dwayne "Doc" Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler
 Dr. Ivette Lozano, Former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly, HD 108, SD 2, Dallas
 Elizabeth Theiss, President, Stop the Magnet, HD 134, SD 15, Houston
 Ernie Clark, Past President, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler



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 Elizabeth Theiss, President, Stop the Magnet, HD 134, SD 15, Houston
 Ernie Clark, Past President, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler



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Eugene Ralph Sr, Vice President, SW Dallas County Republicans, HD 109, SD 2, Dallas

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party, HD 24, SD 9, Fort Worth

Frank Dobrovolny, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Jacksonville

Frank Motsenbocker, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Gary & Janet Whitehorn, Board Member, We the People - Longview, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Gloria McDonald, Technology Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 63, SD 12, Bartonville

Jack Dubose, Chair, Real County Republican Party, HD 53, SD 19, Leakey

Jackie King, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 8, SD 22, Purdon

Janna Castloo, Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Jill Youngblood Hilber, VP Legislation, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Jim & Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Jim Speiran, Past Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 1, SD 1, Bullard

Joan Somma, Board Member, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 134, SD 17, Houston

Joe Adams, Chair, Delta County Republican Party, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project, HD 5, SD 1, Hideaway

Josie D Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Rusk

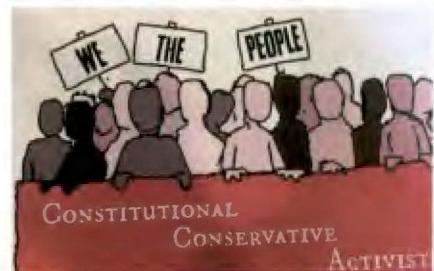
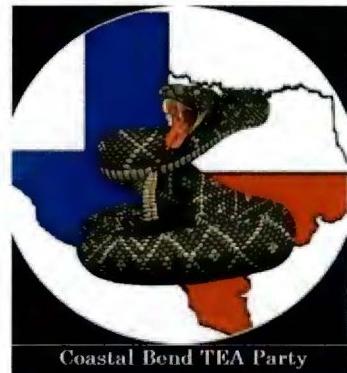
Karl Voigtsberger, Former SREC SD 8, Board Member, McKinney Tea Party, HD 67, SD 8, Richardson

Kathi-Ann Rivard, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, Golden Corridor Republican Women, Frisco Tea Party, HD 70, SD 30, Prosper

Kathy Hussey, President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Kathy Ponce, President, Freedom Tea Party Patriots, HD 10, SD 22, Maypearl

Kurt Hyde, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 64, SD 12, Corinth



THE BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION
TEA PARTY

Larry Korkmas, President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections, HD 50, SD 14, Copperas Cove

Lou Vail, Chair, Knox County Republican Party, HD 69, SD 28, Knox City

Maggie Wright, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Marcia Barnett, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Parliamentarian, Republican Women of Denton, Collin & Dallas County, HD 65, SD 12, Carrollton

Maria Hammerlein, Executive Director, Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas, HD 134, SD 15, Houston

Marian Knowlton, Chairman, Atascosa County Republican Party, HD 31, SD 19, Poteet

Marty Forte, Preston West Republican Women, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Mary Anne Farrow, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Michael & Susan Najvar, Deep East Texas TEA Party, HD 17, SD 18, Gonzales

Michael Kinzie, Founder, TEAParty911.com, HD 130, SD 7, Tomball

Mike Openshaw, Founder, Texas Legislative Watch, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation, HD 53, SD 24, Bandera

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC, HD 15, SD 4, Magnolia

Peter Batura, Vice President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 132, SD 17, Katy

Rena & David French, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People, HD 11, SD 3, Bullard

Robert Kecseg, SREC SD 1, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Roy Willis, Conservative Texas Citizen, HD 99, SD 12, Fort Worth

Russ Bafford, Sr., President, Robson Ranch Republican Club, HD 64, SD 12, Denton

Sharon Armke, Concerned Parents of Texas, Hill Country Values, HD 45, SD 25, Dripping Springs

Suezette Griffin, Past President, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 29, SD 11, Pearland

Sharon Emmert, self-retired Smith County Commissioner, Charter Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Shirley Anderson, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Lindale

Suzanne Guggenheim, President, Coastal Bend Tea Party, HD 31, SD 20, Corpus Christi



Tami Andrews, Community Affairs Chair, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer
 Tanya Robertson, SREC, Senate District 11, HD 129, SD 11, Seabrook
 Terri DuBose, Precinct Chair, Real County GOP; former SREC SD 19, HD 53, Leakey
 Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF), HD 53, SD 24, Ingram
 Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown
 Terry Lynch, past President, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 89, SD 8, Parker
 Terry Wade, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans, HD 67, SD 8, Plano
 Thomas Morgan, Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler
 Trevor Dupuy, Founder & Coordinator, Horseshoe Bay Conservative Caucus, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay
 Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) SREC SD 2; Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 113, Sunnyvale
 Wallace Johnson, Precinct Chair, Brazos County Republican Party, Bryan
 Wes Brumit, Chair, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL), HD 9, SD 1, Longview
 William Earnest, HD 20, SD 24, Spicewood
 Bryan Slaton, Leader, SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition, Vice President, Ethics and Political Economy Center (EPEC), HD 2, SD 2, Royse City
 Jean Scott, Katy Republican Women, HD 26, SD 18, Sugarland
 Alan Smith, Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24
 Angela Smith, Founder/Steering Committee, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24
 Janie Brittain, Steering Committee, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland
 Jim Stanley, Chairman, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler
 Tillie Perkins, President, Red Texas Forum; founding member, Lone Star Coalition of SD 2, Mesquite
 David Watts, Board Member, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer
 Peggy Plumlee, Wood County GOP State Convention Delegate, HD 5, SD 1, Hawkins
 Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney
 Mike & Laura Richter, members Lone Star Coalition SD 2, HD 107, Mesquite
 Sue Evenwel, SREC, SD 1; County Chair, Titus County GOP, HD 5, SD 1, Mt Pleasant



This letter was signed by 153 opinion leaders, representing 130 unique organizations, groups, and districts across Texas.



Red Texas Forum - Dallas



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***Organizations listed for
 identification purposes only.**

Dede Keith

Fleming, JoAnn
201906030085

NAC/DO

From: John Colyandro
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Dede Keith
Cc: Luis Saenz
Subject: FW: Coalition Veto Request for Gov Abbott
Attachments: Final_Abbott_Veto_Mental_Health_Coalition_Letter_5-29-19.pdf

Dede:

For C-COM

RECEIVED

MAY 30 2019

I forwarded to Mary Lynn

OOG/CCQM

From: JoAnn Fleming <[REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 7:42 PM
To: John Colyandro <john.colyandro@gov.texas.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Coalition Veto Request for Gov Abbott

This message was received from an EXTERNAL SENDER. Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

John, would you kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter signed by 153 opinion leaders, representing 130 unique organizations, groups and districts across Texas? Thank you.

Best regards,

JoAnn Fleming
Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
(903) 360-2858 cell

Coalition United in Strong Opposition to SB 11, HB 18, HB 19

The Honorable Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

May 29, 2019

Re: Request for Veto of SB 11, HB18, HB19

Dear Governor Abbott,

We are a coalition of groups and individuals, some partisan and non-partisan, who have come together in opposition to Senate Bill 11 and House Bills 18 and 19.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to make schools safer. Regrettably, we cannot support these bills. SB 11 contained several features that directly addressed school safety. However, it also had provisions of concern. While some groups attempted to get these concerns addressed, the bill was only made worse.

We believe that the use of a psychiatric consortium that has inherent connections to the pharmaceutical industry simply puts Texas children at risk of dangerous psychotropic drugging and policies that lead to same.

As Attorney General you sued numerous drug companies over illegal marketing schemes. We know you are well aware of just how far drug companies can reach into our state programs. In 2012 you settled a lawsuit with Johnson & Johnson related to the marketing of an antipsychotic drug for unapproved populations including children.¹ This was done under the Texas Medication Algorithm Project. Several faculty members from UT medical schools were involved. In other instances, state employees resigned from their jobs over allegations that they worked with drug companies to promote their product in state programs.²

We do not believe a mental health consortium is necessary to school safety. That it is composed of the psychiatry departments of our medical schools; and as our medical schools work closely with pharmaceutical companies, this creates a conflict that cannot be cured.

¹ <https://www.texastribune.org/2012/01/19/state-settles-largest-ever-medicaid-fraud-suit/>

² <https://www.texastribune.org/2015/04/17/terrell-state-psychiatrists-resign-after-accusatio/>



southern baptists
of texas convention



Texas Eagle Forum

WomenOnTheWall.Org™



North Texas Citizens Lobby

GRASSROOTS AMERICA
WE THE PEOPLE
UNITE ★ EDUCATE ★ EMPOWER
Political Action Committee

Assessment for “potential” danger is unreliable, will create injustice

The idea that one could pinpoint those who will “potentially” become dangerous and then get them the “help they need” is abhorrent to us. **No one can predict evil.** Even if they could, there is nothing to suggest that mental health treatment can prevent it. Absent an immediate and obvious threat, there is no screening, assessment, or interview that can dependably predict future dangerousness. Even the American Psychiatric Association has stated that when it comes to long term predictions of future dangerousness, they get it wrong in at least two out of three cases.³

How many innocent children will be labeled as potential threats and then deprived of precious liberties?

A mental health supervisor for Austin Independent School District’s campus police testified on HB10 that AISD alone had referred over 875 students to Child Protective Services over mental health issues so far this school year. In questioning, it sounded like many of these cases revolved around differences of opinion with parents.

We believe that foster children, special needs children, and children of color will be especially vulnerable to such programs because of biases and stereotypes.

Threat Assessments Are Subjective: Therefore, Mistakes Will Be Made - These Are Not Harmless

Using Threat Assessment Teams to scrutinize children, question children, and offer subjective assessments of risk, without providing true information on the frailties of such assessments, and without full Miranda warnings is an affront to parental and civil rights. The fact that the Texas School Safety Center website features at least one model from another state in which everyone, including the child, is questioned **before the child's parents are brought in** make the prospect of Threat Assessment Teams even more disturbing.⁴

We would remind you that Nikolas Cruz was apparently the subject of a threat assessment AND mental health treatment.⁵ This certainly did not prevent the Parkland shooting.

Mental screening for “at-risk” students is notoriously inaccurate with false positive rates as high as 84%.⁶ What defines “at risk”? The problem with mental screening in general and with labeling “at-risk” children with a psychiatric label is that the already admittedly subjective diagnostic criteria are even more difficult to apply to children. The World Health Organization (not known as a conservative group) has said: “Childhood and adolescence being developmental phases, it is difficult to draw clear boundaries between phenomena that are part of normal development and others that are abnormal.”⁷

³<https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Directories/Library-and-Archive/amicus-briefs/amicus-1982-barefoot.pdf>

⁴https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55674542e4b074aad07152ba/5b442226562fa7fde6f5bc38/1531191846207/LAUSD_Threat_Assessment_CHECKLIST.305182908.pdf

⁵<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/parkland/florida-school-shooting/fl-ne-nikolas-cruz-threat-assessment-20190124-story.html>

⁶<https://thenationalpulse.com/commentary/parents-beware-mentalscreening-students-ramps-up-texas/>

⁷<https://thenationalpulse.com/commentary/turning-teachers-psychotherapists-willnot-prevent-schoolshootings/>,
<http://edlibertywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/School-Safety-Memo-to- Commission.pdf>

THE RUTHERFORD INSTITUTE



We believe that as a result of this mental health approach, perfectly normal children will be given subjective mental health labels, or viewed as potential threats, affecting their rights now and in the future.

Mental Health Education is problematic

We believe that mental health education, as envisioned in SB11 and HB18, is more likely to become an indoctrination tool, a marketing tool, than it is to help children. There are at least two major cases in Texas where books, coloring books, or similar materials were used to either fill hospital beds or steer children toward medication.^{8,9} In addition, some schools are using mindfulness programs that include practices one would associate with Eastern religious practices. This is objectionable to some families. **We believe parents, families, and their care providers are best positioned to provide unbiased information, and to decide when or if their children are ready for that discussion.**

Psychotropic Drugs, Suicide and Violence

Multiple school shooters and other perpetrators of mass violence have been under the influence of psychotropic drugs or withdrawing from them.¹⁰ Many drugs are associated with risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors, aggression, hostility, agitation or other violent effects. While legislation was filed that would have at least explored psychotropic drugs in relation to suicide, it went nowhere. We do not support legislation that could exacerbate the problem.

Opening Schools to Private Mental Health Providers Invites Fraud, Abuse

HB18 supports the idea of schools partnering with private mental health providers for those services. This is not otherwise defined. As the bill author filed another bill allowing hospitals to run school mental health clinics, we can only assume HB18 includes private psychiatric hospitals. **At this time, a psychiatric hospital company in Arlington is under a criminal indictment alleging, among other things, that patients were illegally held against their will.¹¹** Other hospitals are under suit over similar issues.¹² Our nation's largest chain of psychiatric hospitals is being sued by stockholders alleging similar behavior.¹³ This chain of hospitals has 15 psychiatric hospitals licensed in Texas, plus other facilities under different licensure. In 1992, Texas State Senator Mike Moncrief testified that private psych hospitals in Texas had entered into arrangements with Texas schools to provide counseling services and then referred students for inpatient treatment.¹⁴ **We do not want our children to become cash cows for fraudulent schemes.**

⁸ Texas State Senator Mike Moncrief, Congressional testimony, 1992
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d00282733c;view=1up;seq=15>

⁹ <https://www.infowars.com/creepy-coloring-book-tells-kids-to-take-drugs/>

¹⁰ <https://www.cchrint.org/school-shooters/>

¹¹ <https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/community/arlington/article223102785.html>

¹² <https://www.khou.com/article/news/lawsuits-patients-held-against-their-will-at-dallas-behavioral-hospital/285-509394385>

¹³ <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/legal-regulatory-issues/uhs-can-t-dodge-claims-it-held-patients-illegally-investors-say.html>

¹⁴ <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951d00282733c;view=1up;seq=99>



In Summary

We believe vigilance, hardened campuses and other direct measures, not mental health, not subjective risk assessments would better improve school safety.

We believe that families, their chosen communities, and their churches are charged with our children's social, emotional, and moral education. There has been increasing controversy over schools teaching about family values, relationships, belief systems or behaviors. Transparency has also been a problem. We do not support legislation that would allow our role, our God given duty, to be undermined by the state.

We recognize that some families may choose psychiatric treatments, including drugs, for their children. We do not believe it is in the best interest of the state or our children for these services to be promoted in schools. This is a family matter.

We believe these bills open up our schools and Texas's children to fraud and abuse.

We believe these bills favor industry, not families.

Four times as many teens in the U.S. die from accidents as from suicide.¹⁵ Nearly four times as many die from accidents as from homicide.¹⁶ Therefore we find it curious that our state is spending hundreds of millions in these bills for suicide and violence prevention, and not one dime for accident prevention. We want to know why.

We believe that these bills feed into further data on our children being collected and shared.

We believe that these bills codify unsettled science, with no consensus, such as trauma informed care and adverse childhood experiences, into law.

We want our schools to return to their original intent with the focus on academics – reading, writing, mathematics. Let parents and families decide what their children need. Let our churches, communities, and private doctors be the ones we go to when we need help.



¹⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db37.htm>

¹⁶ Ibid

We believe that the issue of school safety needs more seats at the table, and must involve a diversity of views from parents, faith-based counselors, ministers and groups concerned with our liberties to discuss what is best for our children. These bills do not reflect that diversity.

Therefore, we request that SB11, HB18, and HB19 be vetoed.

Signed, concerned community and opinion leaders, *

Lee Spiller, Executive Director, Citizens Commission on Human Rights-Texas

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

Alice Linahan, Vice-President, Women on the Wall

Barbara Harless, co-Founder North Texas Citizens Lobby

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Cathie Adams, 1st VP, Eagle Forum, Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Kevin Freeman, Founder, National Security Investment Consultant Institute (NSIC)

Rachel Malone, Texas Director, Gun Owners of America, HD 50, SD 14, Manor

Beth Biesel, Co-Chair, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 108, SD

Pastor Stephan Broden, State Republican Executive Committeeman SD 23, Gone2Far Movement, Dallas16, University Park

Ruth York, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, HD 60, SD 28, Cisco

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

J. Clayton Young M.D., FACOG, Medical Freedom Activist, The Woodlands

Virginia Young, M.S., Medical Freedom Activist, The Woodlands

Jerri Lynn Ward, J.D., Travis County Precinct Chair, Pct. 312, Lakeway, TX

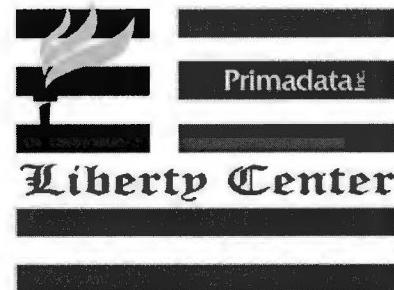
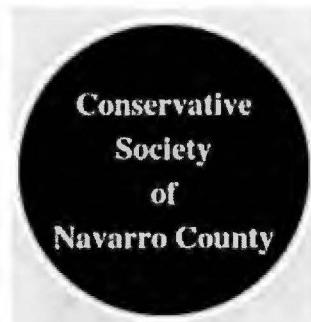
Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director, East Texans for Liberty PAC

Mary & Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

John Whitehead, The Rutherford Institute

Jill Glover, Licensed Professional Counselor; Precinct Chair, Denton County GOP, HD 63, SD 12, Denton



Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine
 Desiree Watts, Legislative Chair, East Texans for Liberty PAC
 Michael Olcott, Ph.D., Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives, HD 61, SD 30, Fort Worth
 Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall
 Lacey Hull, Co-founder, We the Parents Coalition
 Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas
 Nancy Dillard, President, Denton County Conservative Coalition; Prec. 2022 Chair, Denton County GOP
 Maria Espinoza, Co-founder & National Director, The Remembrance Project
 Deborah Simmons, Take Back the SHAC
 A. Patrick Huff, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor - Houston, Retired Public School Principal
 Meg Bakich, Concerned Highland Park (HPISD) Parent, Former HPISD School Board Candidate
 Randy Houchins, Concerned Leander ISD Parent, Mechanical Engineer Math Advocate
 Penny Story, founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists, HD 10, SD 22, Red Oak
 Mary Bowen, Texas teacher, Cedar Creek
 Moira T. Dolan, MD, Internal Medicine Physician, Austin
 Jennifer Fleck, Concerned Texas Parent and Attorney, Lake Travis
 Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State LLC, HD 18, SD 3, Cleveland
 Krista McIntire, Director of Family Rights Advocacy
 Ann Newman, Speak Up Texas, Boerne
 Tish Whitten, Political Donor, Dallas
 Celise Hamann, Teacher, Cypress Fairbanks ISD
 Joel and Karen Starnes, Organization for American Values
 Barbette W. Stone, Houston
 Adam Cahn, Austin political blogger, Cahnman's Musings, HD 51, SD 21, Austin
 Ann Lieber, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, HD 214, SD 30, Prosper
 Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo



Barrett Breedlove, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler
 Betty Anderson, President, Montgomery County Eagle Forum, HD 15, SD 4, Shenandoah
 Bill & Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank
 Bill Bingham, past Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 14, SD 5, College Station
 Bill Culpepper, GAWTP; Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse
 Bill Hussey, Founder & Vice President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano
 Cara Hill, Member, Smith County Republican Women, HD 6, CD 1, Tyler
 Carey Austin, President, Northwood Republican Women, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas
 Carol Doucet, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County & Navarro County TEA Party, HD 89, SD 22, Frost
 Charlie Levitt, Board Member, Northeast Tarrant Tea Party, HD 91, SD 9, Haltom City
 Craig Licciardi, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party; Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Flint
 Crystal Main, Precinct Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party, HD 91, SD 9, North Richland Hills
 Dave & Mary Fallert, Membership Chair, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Crandall
 David Halvorson, SREC SD 12, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine
 David Rasco, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler
 Deborah Bailey, Secretary, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo
 Della Clark, Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler
 Denise & Randy Rives, President, Star Republican Women, Precinct Chair, Llano County Republican Party, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay
 Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse
 Dottie Barnes, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 89, SD 22, Frost
 Dr. Dwayne "Doc" Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler
 Dr. Ivette Lozano, Former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly, HD 108, SD 2, Dallas
 Elizabeth Theiss, President, Stop the Magnet, HD 134, SD 15, Houston
 Ernie Clark, Past President, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler



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Eugene Ralph Sr, Vice President, SW Dallas County Republicans, HD 109, SD 2, Dallas

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party, HD 24, SD 9, Fort Worth

Frank Dobrovolny, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Jacksonville

Frank Motsenbocker, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Gary & Janet Whitehorn, Board Member, We the People - Longview, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Gloria McDonald, Technology Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 63, SD 12, Bartonsville

Jack Dubose, Chair, Real County Republican Party, HD 53, SD 19, Leakey

Jackie King, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 8, SD 22, Purdon

Janna Castloo, Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Jill Youngblood Hilber, VP Legislation, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Jim & Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Jim Speiran, Past Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 1, SD 1, Bullard

Joan Somma, Board Member, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 134, SD 17, Houston

Joe Adams, Chair, Delta County Republican Party, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project, HD 5, SD 1, Hideaway

Josie D Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Rusk

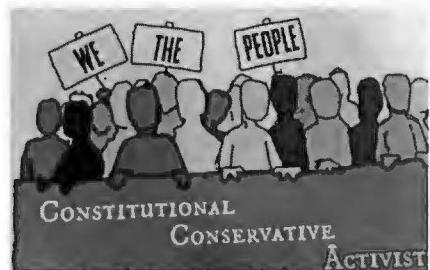
Karl Voigtsberger, Former SREC SD 8, Board Member, McKinney Tea Party, HD 67, SD 8, Richardson

Kathi-Ann Rivard, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, Golden Corridor Republican Women, Frisco Tea Party, HD 70, SD 30, Prosper

Kathy Hussey, President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Kathy Ponce, President, Freedom Tea Party Patriots, HD 10, SD 22, Maypearl

Kurt Hyde, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 64, SD 12, Corinth



Larry Korkmas, President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections, HD 50, SD 14, Copperas Cove

Lou Vail, Chair, Knox County Republican Party, HD 69, SD 28, Knox City

Maggie Wright, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Marcia Barnett, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Parliamentarian, Republican Women of Denton, Collin & Dallas County, HD 65, SD 12, Carrollton

Maria Hammerlein, Executive Director, Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas, HD 134, SD 15, Houston

Marian Knowlton, Chairman, Atascosa County Republican Party, HD 31, SD 19, Poteet

Marty Forte, Preston West Republican Women, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Mary Anne Farrow, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Michael & Susan Najvar, Deep East Texas TEA Party, HD 17, SD 18, Gonzales

Michael Kinzie, Founder, TEAParty911.com, HD 130, SD 7, Tomball

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Roy Willis, Conservative Texas Citizen, HD 99, SD 12, Fort Worth

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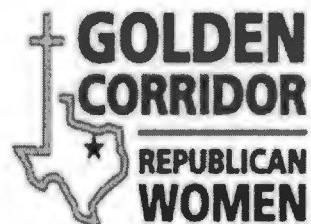
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Bryan Slaton, Leader, SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition, Vice President, Ethics and Political Economy Center (EPEC), HD 2, SD 2, Royse City

Jean Scott, Katy Republican Women, HD 26, SD 18, Sugarland

Alan Smith, Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24

Angela Smith, Founder/Steering Committee, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

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Peggy Plumlee, Wood County GOP State Convention Delegate, HD 5, SD 1, Hawkins

Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

Mike & Laura Richter, members Lone Star Coalition SD 2, HD 107, Mesquite

Sue Evenwel, SREC, SD 1; County Chair, Titus County GOP, HD 5, SD 1, Mt Pleasant



This letter was signed by 153 opinion leaders, representing 130 unique organizations, groups, and districts across Texas.



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Texas Grassroots Coalition:

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May 30, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Governor Abbott:

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EMPOWERTEXANS

When it comes to getting their priorities passed in the Texas Legislature, the people of Texas deserve better,

The leadership of the Texas House of Representatives once again thumbed their noses at taxpayers. No issue unifies Texans like our frustration with the burdensome – almost confiscatory – property tax system. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and the Texas Senate demonstrated their support for property tax reform when, earlier in the session, they passed a comprehensive reform measure designed to put voters in charge of property taxes.

Last Saturday, the Republican-Democrat coalition in charge of the Texas House took what was already a watered down version of that Senate measure and turned it into little more than an expanded posting requirement before local governments can raise taxes on Texas families. The “big change” in the House bill was changing the name in law from the “effective rate” to the “no-new-revenue tax rate.”

The 85th legislative session constitutes an epic failure on property tax reform.

Next, we have the Privacy Act (SB6). Protecting the safety, dignity, and privacy of Texans from overreaching local governments is a critical issue with broad support among voters. This has been a legislative priority for many pastors, conservative leaders, and citizens throughout the entire 85th legislative session. Lt. Governor Patrick and the Senate responded, passing a comprehensive privacy act that would protect the safety, dignity, and privacy of all Texans in locker rooms, changing facilities, and bathrooms in public schools and other government buildings. It also protected private businesses from overreaching local ordinances.

After spending the majority of the 85th legislature obstructing and delaying SB 6, House leadership decided to pass a worthless and ineffectual amendment so they could claim credit and avoid a special session.

Now that the 85th Texas Legislature has adjourned, the People are left with no proper privacy protections for public school children (including those enrolled in dual credit courses at institutions of higher education) or conscience protections for business owners. ***The radical left is poised to double down on its agenda and will target our schools, cities, and private businesses because of this breathtaking failure of the legislature to protect the privacy, dignity, and safety of Texans. This must not stand!***



Texas Eagle Forum



Finally, not one substantial election integrity or ballot security bill passed this session. This is particularly appalling since it has been discovered that *neither the Texas Secretary of State nor any election official in any of our 254 counties is mandated by law to verify the driver's license or Social Security numbers used by individuals when they register to vote!* In addition, the Secretary of State's Office has been issuing waivers allowing local election officials to avoid printing paper back-ups to electronic voting machines. This means there is no way to verify election results!

These facts, coupled with the mail-in ballot harvesting schemes uncovered by activists in the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex (and currently under investigation by the Texas Attorney General's Office), should have been plenty of incentive for the legislature to act to stamp out opportunities for voter fraud.

Make no mistake – this is not a scheme that can be attributed to Democrats alone. We've seen enough to believe that there are Republican officials up to their eyeballs in election tampering. Wide-open opportunities for voter fraud aren't something Texans should be expected to tolerate until the 2019 legislature convenes. Voter fraud is not like accepting the rain ruining a picnic.

The 85th legislative session was an alarming failure on the vitally important issues of election integrity and ballot security.

Governor, while we take note of your praise for the progress made on ethics reform (that came late on the eve of Sine Die), we are greatly disappointed that the automatic revolving door of lawmakers to lobbyists is still in rotation; that lobbyists can still serve in elected office; and loopholes exploited by lobbyists are still there hiding the extent to which public officials are wined and dined by lobbyists – who, more often than not, are diametrically opposed to a wide array of conservative principles.

When running for office, Republicans do a lot of talking about conservative values, but with Republicans in charge of every branch of state government, the unfinished business of this legislative session is unacceptable. ***The people of Texas deserve better.***

They deserve property tax relief, safety, dignity, and privacy in the most intimate settings, the highest ethics for state government officials, and the peace of mind that election results are dependable and verifiable.

We strongly agree with your statements, Governor Abbott, that, "voter fraud must be eradicated," that "we must do all we can to help women have privacy, safety and security to the fullest extent," and that we must also secure "real constraints on the rise in property taxes on our fellow Texans."

Governor, we respectfully submit to you that none of these issues can wait until the 2019 Legislative Session. We therefore ask you to respect the people of Texas, make good on your declared legislative priorities, and make plans to



call a special session of the Texas Legislature to complete this important unfinished business for the People. *Anything less is unacceptable.*

The undersigned Texas Grassroots Leaders:*

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC



Michael Quinn Sullivan, President, Empower Texans



Pastor Dave Welch, President, Texas Pastors Council

Cathie Adams, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas Eagle Forum



Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Dana Hodges, State Director, Concerned Women for America/Texas



Aaron Harris, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas

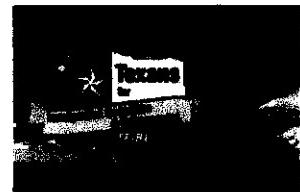
Jonathan Saenz, President, Texas Values

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, Save our Texas Vote Coalition



Tim Lambert, President, Texas Home School Coalition

Farris and Jo Ann Wilks, Cisco Conservatives



C. R. "Dick" Saulsbury, Saulsbury Companies

Monty Bennett, Ashford, Inc.

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party



Jared Woodfill, President, Conservative Republicans of Texas

Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County TEA Party

Maggie Wright, Founding member, past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

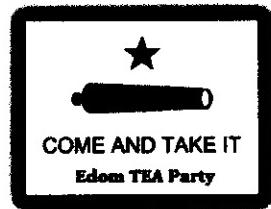
Suezette Griffin, President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Mary and Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party



Robin and Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.

Dr. Dwayne Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party



Dean Wright, Co-founder/Director, New Revolution Now & the Austin TEA Party

Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRe

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum



Mike Openshaw, Co-founder , Communications Director, North Texas TEA Party

Allen Tharp, President, San Antonio TEA Party

Jeremiah Hunter, Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC

Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D., A Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party



Fredericksburg TEA Party

Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Republican



Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Ruth York, President, TEA Party Patriots of Eastland County

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation



Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, San Antonio

Lyleann McClellan Thee, President, San Angelo TEA Party

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

Toni and Tom Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party

Teresa Beckmeyer, Republican Party County Chair, Mitchell County

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

Carroll Maxwell, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

Sue Evenwel, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 1

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall

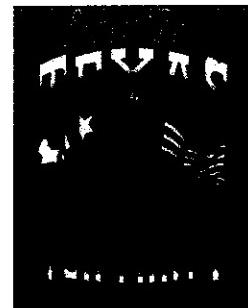
Mike and Cindy Schwartz, Co-Founders, We The People-Longview TEA Party

Barb Stauffer, Garland Tea Party Steering Committee Member

Karen Albright, President, Freestone County TEA Party



Maria Espinoza & Timothy Lyng, Founders, THE REMEMBRANCE PROJECT



Connie Curry, West Texas Conservative Leadership

Carol Doucet, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Jackie King, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Dottie Barnes, Charter member, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Kelly Canon, Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party



Bill Bingham, Spokesman, Bryan/College Station TEA Party

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director, East Texans for Liberty

George Pangburn, President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Maria Martinez, Houston Inner Loop Grassroots

Dr. Ivette Lozano, Past President, Dallas County Republican Assembly 2015-2017



Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, LLC

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee member, Garland TEA Party

Debbie Terry, State Republican Executive Committee, SD 12

Marlan Knowlton, Republican Party County Chairman, Atascosa County

Tanya Robertson, State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 11

Terri Dubose, State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 19

Jack Dubose, Republican Party County Chair, Real County

Tammy Blair, Republican Party County Chair, Cherokee County

Tim O'Hare, Republican Party County Chair, Tarrant County

Lynn Gaston, Precinct 2 Chair, Mitchell County

Mike Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives

John Alaniz, former President, Central Texas TEA Party



Suzanne Guggenheim, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator – South Texas; Programs & Events Chairman, Corpus Christi TEA Party Patriots

* Organizations are listed for identification purposes.

David Carter, Bell County Election Judge, Precinct 311

TX-GOV-19-1114-A-000076



Corpus Christi TEA Party Patriots

Flemming JoAnne

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Texas Grassroots Coalition

NASCO
CH 85th S



Strong Support for Grid Security for Special Session

Relating to the protection of energy-critical infrastructure from electromagnetic, geomagnetic, terroristic, and cyber-attack threats.

May 30, 2017

RECEIVED

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

JUN 20 2017

OOG/CCOM

Dear Governor Abbott:

Another critical piece of unfinished legislative business important to the life and economic prosperity in Texas is grid security. This is the second session we've worked to get a grid security bill passed, but it seems the voice of the lobbyists is once again louder than ours.

Although the bulk of political support for grid security has come from Republicans, we were delighted to see that Senator John Whitmire (D) – the Dean of the Texas Senate – was a co-author of Senator Hall's SB 83. In addition, on February 1, 2017, the US House Energy and Commerce Committee's Ranking Member, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), spoke about the importance of continued improvements to our nation's efforts to defend against cybersecurity threats to the electricity grid, saying, "*I consider grid security to be a top tier national security concern.*"

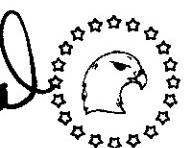
As you are well aware, Governor, the 2016 Texas GOP Platform, page 17, section 155, states, "We urge that the Texas Legislature pass legislation to harden the Texas Electric Grid against:

1. Cyber-attacks on the grid's computerized command and control system.
2. Physical attacks on substations and major high voltage transformers.
3. Geomagnetic storms created by solar flares from the sun.
4. Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)."

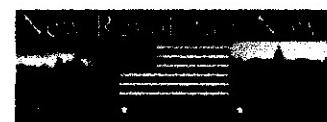
The 2016 National Republican Party Platform agrees, "The grid is aging, vulnerable to cyber and terrorist threats, and unprepared to serve our energy needs of tomorrow."

Finally, on November 21, 2016, President-Elect Donald Trump stated that he would ask "the Department of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to develop a comprehensive plan to protect America's vital infrastructure from cyber-attacks and all other forms of attacks."

MSB-Special
M.B. Taylor



Texas Eagle Forum



Although we have cited support from both the left and the right of the political spectrum, **the safety, security, and economic well-being of Texans is not a Republican, nor a Democratic issue – it is an issue vitally important to ALL Texans.**

Rapidly accelerating technology, the proliferation of “black hat hackers,” and today’s volatile geo-political environment, have significantly elevated the threat of a catastrophic Electro Magnetic Pulse (EMP) event or a terroristic assault in the form of a cyber-attack or an act of sabotage that could dramatically and irreversibly change life as we know it. While this is a nationwide threat, Texas stands alone in its ability to protect the Texas electrical grid from this threat because Texas is the only state with an electrical grid that is essentially isolated from other states.

At a lunch meeting with Texas Senators last week, US Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry spoke about the urgency to secure the grid. **We agree with Secretary Perry and cannot understand why there is not a strong sense of urgency to move forward to protect the Texas grid from terrorists, rogue nations, and naturally occurring geo-magnetic storms.**

Governor, we respectfully ask that you send a signal to special interests that you value the lives and economic livelihood of Texans over their objections. Please put grid security on the call for a special session. **Lives depend on getting this right.**

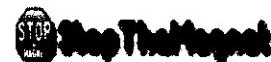
The undersigned strongly support Senator Bob Hall’s grid security bill (SB 83), which will propel Texas forward in the urgent mission to strengthen, harden, and protect our electrical grid against natural-occurring and manmade attacks.

For Liberty – for Texas,

JoAnn Fleming	Executive Director, Grassroots America PAC
Cathie Adams	Director, Nat'l Eagle Forum, past Pres. TX Eagle Forum
Trayce Bradford	President, Texas Eagle Forum
Dana Hodges	State Director, Concerned Women for America of TX
Ann Hettinger	Director, Center for Preservation of American Ideals
Anna Bartosh	Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party
Dr. Dwayne Collins	Chairman, Edom TEA Party
Carol Doucet	A Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County
Clyde Bryan	President, The Executive Council - Houston



Edom
TEA Party



Toni & Tom Fabry	Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party
Rebecca Forest	Women on the Wall
Suezette Griffin	President, Clear Lake TEA Party
Daniel Hare	President, Texas Patriots TEA Party
David Horton	Titus County Republican Club
Mary & Dale Huls	Executive Board Members, Clear Lake TEA Party
Jeremiah Hunter	Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party
Bill Hussey	Founder/Past President, Llano TEA Party
Keith Kelly	A Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party
Judy Kent	President, Republican Women of NE Texas
Larry Korkmas	President, TFIRE
Matt Long	President, Fredericksburg TEA Party
Dr. Ivette Lozano	President, Dallas County Republican Assembly
Susan Lucas	Denton County Conservative Coalition
Timothy Lyng	Co-founder, The Remembrance Project
Julie McCarty	President, NE Tarrant TEA Party
Stacy McMahan	Exec. Director/President, East Texans for Liberty
Ray Myers	President, Kaufman County TEA Party
George Pangborn	President, Highland Lakes TEA Party
Laura Pressley, Ph.D.	Founder, Save Our Texas Vote Coalition
Russell Ramsland	Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum
Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D.	A Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party
Judy Schmid	A Founder/President, Sugar Land TEA Party
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Bill Bingham	Spokesman, Bryan/College Station TEA Party
Barb Stauffer	Steering Committee member, Garland TEA Party
Janie Britain	Steering Committee member, Garland TEA Party
Carroll Maxwell	President, Collin County Conservative Republicans
Allen Tharp	President, San Antonio TEA Party
Liz Theiss	Founder, Stop the Magnet
Kelly Canon	A Founder & Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party
Trevor Dupuy	A Founder/Past President Highland Lakes TEA Party
Ruth York	President, TEA Party Patriots of Eastland County
Lyleann McClellan Thee	President, San Angelo TEA Party
Deborah Bailey	Member, San Angelo TEA Party
Sarah Meador Lipsett	Member, San Angelo TEA Party
Robin & Jim Lennon	President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party
Sue Evenwel	State GOP Executive Committeewoman, SD 1
Judy J. Brady	Charter member, Central Texas TEA Party
Lamar Cossey	Co-Chair, Canton TEA Party
Jan Shedd	Events Chair/Webmaster, Kaufman County TEA Party
Betty Fallert	Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party
Jackie King	Co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County
Dottie Barnes	Co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

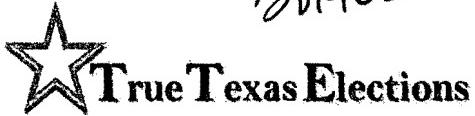


Barbara Harless
Connie Curry
Terri Hall
Mike Olcott

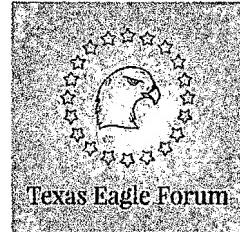
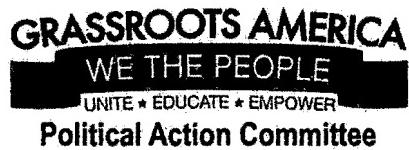
Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby
West Texas Conservative Leadership
Leader, Spring Branch Grassroots Liberty Advocates
Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives



Organizations are listed
for identification purposes.



Grassroots America
201902040843



January 31, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

RE: Election Integrity and Ballot Security

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2019

OOG/CCOM

Dear Governor Abbott:

Last week, Secretary of State Whitley released data calling into question the number of non-citizens registered to vote in Texas elections. The announcement follows a year when prosecutions of voter fraud outpaced the past five years combined.

Texas has election integrity issues that need to be addressed. Lawmakers in both chambers appear poised to tackle the issue, having focused on the issue of securing elections during the interim. This includes work done by the Senate Select Committee on Election Security.

As you weigh priority issues ahead of your State of the State address, we renew our request that you **make election integrity an emergency item** to be taken up during the first 60 days of the 86th Legislative Session.

Attached is a Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition letter sent to your office in August 2018 requesting emergency status for election integrity.

Lawmakers need to be working on reforms to shore up trust in our election system as soon as possible. Your strong renewed public commitment will greatly assist the legislature in doing the work needed to move us toward election integrity and ballot security.

Thank you for your steadfast service to the state of Texas.

Respectfully, the undersigned Texas grassroots political leaders.*

Daniel Greer, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas

Dr. Laura Pressley, Founder, True Texas Elections

Cathie Adams, 1st Vice-President, Eagle Forum

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Michael Quinn Sullivan, CEO, Empower Texans

Dick Saulsbury, Saulsbury Industries

Monty Bennett, Ashford Hospitality



**Requesting Immediate Executive Action:
Mandate Citizenship Verification for Voter Registration
by the Texas Secretary of State**

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

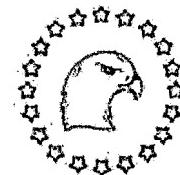
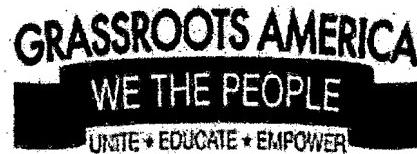
Dear Governor Abbott:

Last year you made election integrity a priority by including it in your call for a special session. That call resulted in the adoption of Senate Bill 5, which increased penalties for people who commit election crimes related to mail-in ballots. Upon signing the bill into law on August 11, 2017, you issued a statement declaring, **"It is a primary function of government to protect citizens' right to vote, and I will not allow the integrity of the ballot box to be compromised in Texas."** Based on your record, Governor Abbott, we believe you, and we thank you.

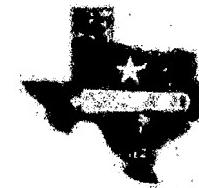
Texas must continue to improve our election system, ensuring every possible action is taken to guarantee ballot integrity and election security.

Unfortunately, Texans continue to see headlines of non-citizens voting in our elections. In Tarrant County, Rosa Ortega, a legal resident, non-citizen, had been voting for 10 years before being caught and convicted. In Beaumont, an El Salvadoran was indicted on multiple federal charges for having voted in the 2016 Presidential election.¹ The list goes on.

In a recent interview Starr County District Attorney Omar Escobar confirmed that non-U.S. citizens are on the voter lists in his county. He is quoted stating, **"That non-citizens are registered to vote is beyond question. That non-citizens are voting in Starr County is also beyond question." They are registered and voting, the only remaining question is 'how many.'**²



Texas Eagle Forum



EMPOWERTEXANS



Non-citizens are also being summoned for jury duty. Often they disclose their non-citizen status as they check in for jury duty. Texas has a process for removing these non-citizens from voter rolls. Unfortunately, the Attorney General's office recently determined that "the process for removing ineligible voters who self-report as non-citizens at jury duty is not being followed correctly, or even at all, in various counties." In other words – even after illegals notify county jury clerks during the jury selection process that they are non-citizens, they remain on the voter rolls. This is outrageous and unacceptable!

Officials representing the Texas Secretary of State, the Texas Attorney General's office, and Starr County all testified before the February 22, 2018, Texas Senate Select Committee on Election Security that under the state's current system, non-citizens can easily register to vote in Texas without being detected.

To add fuel to our outrage, Keith Ingram, who heads the Texas Secretary of State's Elections Division, testified that the state cancels the registrations of certain inactive and deceased voters, but declared it's the responsibility of county elections officials to investigate and remove all other ineligible people on the voter rolls – including non-citizens.

"Voter registration is county-based," Ingram said. "It's their voters, not ours. That's up to them."

Senator Brian Birdwell asked Ingram what mechanisms the Secretary of State or county voter registration officials have to ensure that non-citizens aren't registering to vote. "Only the jury summons," Ingram responded.

When Senator Don Huffines asked Ingram if the Secretary of State's office, or any other state agency, oversees county elections officials to ensure that they're maintaining accurate voter rolls, Ingram responded, "No."

Governor Abbott, as we make more and more Texans aware of this **sorry state of affairs**, they are understandably outraged. While we appreciate public hearings and the voiced indignation of legislators as they learn of the unfettered access – the open door – we have in Texas for illegals to vote, we are disgusted that **nothing is being done to stop it!** A primary election, a runoff election, and local elections have come and gone in the months since the February hearing. The November 2018 General Election is fast approaching. **Something needs to be done, Governor, and we have a solution.**

The Texas Secretary of State, part of the Executive branch, handles voter registrations for Texas. By federal law, the Secretary of State verifies certain information from the Department of Public Safety's database. This includes addresses, Social Security numbers, and more. The Texas Department of Public



Safety has citizenship information on each person with a state issued identification – approximately 21.5 million Texans; **however, the Secretary of State is NOT checking citizenship information in their processes. This is simply unconscionable to Texans!**

It is a reasonable expectation that we Texans would demand that **only citizens** be allowed to vote in our elections! It is time for the finger pointing and excuse making to end, and YOU can end it with executive action.

Governor Abbott – we respectfully write today to ask you, by administrative order³, to adopt a policy similar to other states and mandate the **Secretary of State to check DPS citizenship information when completing voter registrations**. The information is right at their fingertips. Why the SOS has not been using this available information to ensure that we don't have illegal aliens on our voter rolls is something we do not understand!

Such screening could and should begin tomorrow – without waiting for the Legislature. It could begin tomorrow without further excuses, obfuscation from the Democrats, and further delays, all of which continue to compromise the integrity of our elections. **Having the Secretary of State check citizenship status is fiscally responsible. Since the SOS is already checking the DPS database, it adds no expense to the State.**

The fact that our Texas elections are being compromised is beyond question. We must now enact, without delay, solutions that will close loopholes and restore confidence in the cornerstone of our political system – elections.

It is a fact that non-citizens are voting. It is a fact that nobody in state government or county government is exerting due diligence to prevent illegal aliens from voting in our elections. **This is Texas – not California!** We believe the Texas Secretary of State could be and should be checking and removing non-citizens from voter registration rolls. The Secretary of State is under the Governor's purview and authority. **The time is now.**

Governor, until you assume the power of your office to force a resolution for these matters, the legitimacy of every election held in Texas hangs in the balance. **You simply must insist on a rule of law solution to voter fraud in Texas.**

We'll end this strong Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition request for your action just as we started it – with your firm statement as you signed SB 5 into law on August 11, 2017, "**It is a primary function of government to protect citizens' right to vote, and I will not allow the integrity of the ballot box to be compromised in Texas.**"



Thank you for your service to the Great State of Texas, Governor. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you take immediate action to restore integrity to the Texas ballot box!

Sincerely, the undersigned Texas grassroots political leaders,*

Aaron Harris, Founder and Executive Director, Direct Action Texas, LLC
JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC
Cathie Adams, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas

Eagle Forum

C.R. "Dick" Saulsbury, Saulsbury Companies
Monty Bennett, Chairman, Ashford Hospitality
Michael Quinn Sullivan, President & CEO, Empower Texans
Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum
Michael Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives
Alex Kim, President, Tarrant Republican Club; 2016 Trump TX-CD 24 Elector

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

Annette Bennett, Fredericksburg Tea Party

Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party

Barbara Harless, North Texas Citizens Lobby

Barry Schlech, PhD, a Founder & President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Beth Biesel, Leader, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Bill & Patty Gallagher, Founders, Primadata Liberty Center, Mabank

Bill Bingham, Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party

Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party

Brady Whatley, Flower Mound Area Republican Club

Bryan Slaton, Leader, Senate District 2 Conservative Coalition

Carol Doucet, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Caryl Ayala, Concerned Parents of Texas

Charles Kupinski, Missouri City Conservative, SD 17

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum

Connie Curry, West Texas Conservative Leadership

Connie Ratisseau, Clear Lake TEA Party

Craig Cosgray, Past President, Highland Lakes Tea Party

Darl Easton, Tarrant County GOP Chairman

David Carter, Bell County Election Judge, Precinct 311

David Wilson, President, Cypress Texas TEA Party

Debbie Terry, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 12

Deborah Bailey, San Angelo TEA Party

Dennis Cable, past State GOP Executive Committeeman, Senate District 1

Deon Starnes, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 30

Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, San Antonio

Dottie Barnes, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Dr. Dwayne Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, LLC

Ernie Clark, Past President, Grassroots America - We the People PAC



Evelyn Montalvo, Sugar Land TEA Party, Spirit of Freedom Republican Women

Emmanuel Lewis, Irving Conservatives

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party

Gary Gentz, Member, Henderson County Tea Party

George Pangborn, President, Highland Lakes Tea Party

George Rodriguez, Broadcast Activist El Conservador

J. Allen Tharp, President, San Antonio TEA Party

J H Pence, Lake Country Republicans, Wood County

Jack DuBose, Chairman, Real County Republican Party

Jackie King, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Janice Carter, Chapter Leader, John Birch Society

Jeanette Rhodes, Board member, San Antonio TEA Party

Jeremiah Hunter, Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party

Jim & Char Doonan, Wood County Conservatives

Jim Stanley, Chairman, Henderson County Tea Party

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots

John Beckmeyer, Chairman, Mitchell County Republican Party

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project

Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club

Judy Brady, President, Central Texas TEA Party

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party

Karl Voigtsberger, State Republican Executive Committeeman, SD 8

Kathy Ponce, Tea Party Patriots

Kelly Canon, Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party

LaDaine Ashley, Brazoria County Conservatives

Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRE

Laura Perryman, Vice President, Grassroots America - We the People

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Precinct Chair & Committee Chair of Election Integrity

Committee of Travis County Republican Party; founder, Save Our Texas Vote

Lou Denton Vail, Knox County Republican Party Chair

Maggie Wright, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Mark Ramsey, State Republican Executive Committeeman, SD 7

Mark Reid, Plano Citizens' Coalition

Mary & Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members,

Clear Lake TEA Party

Mary Joe Cason, Organizer, Kaufman County TEA Party

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

Michael Kinzie, Founder, TEAParty911.com

Mike Openshaw, Co-founder, Communications Director, North Texas TEA Party

Naomi Narvaiz, State Republican Executive Committee, Senate District 21

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery TEA Party PAC

Penny Story, Founder Constitutional Conservative Activists

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County TEA Party

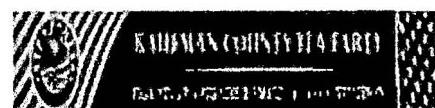
Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall



Conservative Society of Navarro County

TEXAS
The Good Life is Liberal
in our State

GET OFF MY STATE
FEDERALISM IS THE SOLUTION



Rena & David French, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America –

We the People PAC

Rick Eisenbach, President, Grassroots America - We the People

Rick Jackson, Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party

Robin and Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Ruth York, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County

Sandra Kindt, Washington County Republican Party Chairman

Sharon Guthrie, Secretary & Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party

Sheri Edwards, Precinct Chairman, Brazoria County Republican Party

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty

Sue Evenwel, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 1

Suzette Griffin, President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Susan Lucas, Denton County Conservative Coalition

Suzanne Guggenheim, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator – South Texas;

Programs & Events Chairman, Corpus Christi TEA Party

Tammy Blair, past Chair Cherokee County Republican Party

Tanya Robertson, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 11

Teresa Beckmeyer, Precinct Chair Mitchell County Republican Party

Terri DuBose, Precinct Chair, Real County Republican Party

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth

Terry Wade, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party

Trevor Dupuy, a Founder & Past President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) State Republican Executive Committee, SD 2

Wallace Johnson, Brazos County Republican Precinct Chair

Wes Brumit, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL)



North Texas Citizens Lobby



Paid for by Grassroots America – We the People PAC

***Organizations listed for identification purposes only.**

201705260726
Harris Aaron Miller
Caitlin
Texas
Direct Action
TEXAS

Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition for Election Integrity and Ballot Security

May 24, 2017
The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

Dear Governor Abbott:

RECEIVED

MAY 26 2017

OOG/CCOM

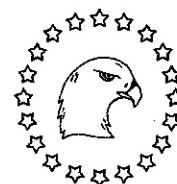
Thank you for prioritizing ballot integrity this session. With recent media reports about voter fraud throughout the Metroplex, and multiple ongoing investigations in progress by the Texas Attorney General's Office, it gets clearer every day that you were correct when you cited voter fraud as a major problem in Texas and made it clear this serious issue must be addressed immediately [See Exhibit A - Screenshots of @GregAbbott_TX Tweets] While you promised multiple times to make ballot integrity a top issue this legislative session, the House had different plans. **Every major election integrity reform bill died in the Texas House.**

This coalition letter expresses our deep frustration that election reform bills that would have brought integrity to all elections in Texas were killed in the Texas House. This is unacceptable. The election integrity and ballot security we seek begins at the point of voter registration, follows through the process of the actual casting of votes, and ends with the preservation of each voter record (publicly viewable paper backup records to verify electronic election results) in a manner that ensures **every vote cast is a legal vote and verifiable**, should the election results of any race be called into question.

Fortunately, for Texans, our election statutes originate in our State Constitution Article 6, Section 4: "*In all elections by the people, the vote shall be by ballot, and the Legislature shall provide for the numbering of tickets and make such other regulations as may be necessary to detect and punish fraud and preserve the purity of the ballot box...*" **Governor Abbott, the cold, hard truth is that we do not have the laws or the enforcement mechanisms in place to fulfill this constitutional mandate!**

Election Integrity is an issue with wide bi-partisan support. Witnesses from the Valley to the DFW Metroplex came to Austin to testify on the importance of election reforms and the dramatic need to correct the defects in our election process. We heard of criminal investigations into voter fraud happening throughout the state, but we also repeatedly saw how the weak election code precludes law enforcement from obtaining felony convictions. We can continue to modify the code, or we can get serious about election fraud and give law enforcement the tools they need to eradicate it.

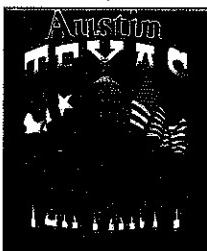
We heard of case after case of organized groups stealing hundreds, or in some cases, thousands of ballots. **These criminal enterprises must be stopped.** Several strong bills were filed to do just that. HB 4131 and HB 4133 would increase penalties for ballot harvesting; thereby giving law enforcement the tools they need to prosecute. Current law only provides for prosecution of the field worker; however, we know that there are people financing and planning these vote harvesting operations. HB 4134 would allow for the prosecution of



Texas Eagle Forum



EMPOWERTEXANS



those organizing ballot harvesting groups. We must equip district attorneys and the Office of the Texas Attorney General to be able to secure convictions in these cases.

We have also seen several recent convictions of non-citizens who voted in our elections. *It is appalling that neither the Texas Secretary of State nor any election official in any of our 254 counties is mandated by law to verify the driver's license or Social Security numbers used by individuals when they register to vote!* Governor, it is essential that HB 3474 be passed to require the Secretary of State to verify citizenship status of registered voters against the DPS database and/or other available databases. *We implore you to use every power available under the Texas Constitution to ensure that only US citizens are registered to vote in Texas!*

Governor, we agree with your social media comments pointing out the dramatic need for Texas to eradicate voter fraud. We have cited specific bills in this letter; however, the following underscores our concerns and specifies areas that need your immediate attention:

First, we support legislation that would restore the ability of Texas to participate in programs such as Interstate Crosscheck. These programs ensure voters are citizens and are not on multiple voter rolls. However, according to the Texas Attorney General's Office, our state cannot enforce a current law that allows this verification process due to a Texas Supreme Court ruling that made date of birth information off limits. Legislation should make that information public and allow Texas to participate in crosscheck programs.

Second, we support legislation to increase penalties for election crimes. Many important offenses in the Election Code are only misdemeanors. These low penalties disincentivize prosecutors from pursuing these important crimes and incentivize criminals to commit them.

Third, we support legislation that would address the issue of organizations that harvest ballots by enacting a conspiracy statute. Courts have recognized that mail-in ballots pose a serious risk for fraud. Current laws are so focused on individuals that commit election crimes that they are ineffective at addressing criminal organizations. Copying the type of organized crime statute we have in the Penal code into the Election Code would enable prosecutors to more effectively address the organizations that unlawfully harvest mail-in ballots.

We ask you to call a special session to deal with these matters. **Election integrity and ballot security simply should not and cannot wait until the 86th Texas Legislative Session!**

Governor, until you assume the power of your office to force a resolution of these matters, the legitimacy of every election held in Texas hangs in the balance. You simply must insist on a rule of law solution to voter fraud in Texas.

We beseech you to call the legislature back to a special session to do this important work for the people of Texas. A government by and for the People only exists when the People can have confidence that the results of an election are a reflection of the collective intent of *eligible voters*.



Thank you for your service to the people of the great state of Texas.

Sincerely,
Aaron Harris, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, Save Our Texas Vote Coalition

Trayce Bradford, Texas Eagle Forum President

Michael Quinn Sullivan, President Empower Texans

Elizabeth and Jim Graham, Texas Right To Life

Chairman Tim O'Hare, Tarrant County Republican Party

Chairman Phillip Huffines, Dallas County Republican Party

Chairwoman Lisa Hendricks, Denton County Republican Party

Chairwoman Teresa Beckmeyer, Mitchell County Republican Party

Chairwoman Tammy Blair, Cherokee County Republican Party

Chairman Jim Logan, President, Hood County TEA Party; Hood County Republican Party Chair

Chairman Jack Dubose, Real County Republican Party

Cathie Adams, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas Eagle Forum

Dana Hodges, State Director, Concerned Women for America/Texas

Farris and JoAnn Wilks, Cisco Conservatives

C R Dick Saulsbury, Saulsbury Companies

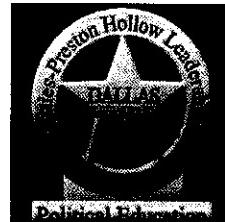
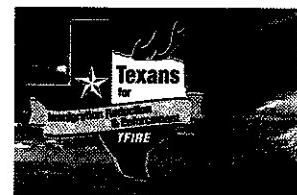
Monty Bennett, Ashford, Inc.

Hon. Kara Sands, County Clerk Nueces County

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party

Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County TEA Party



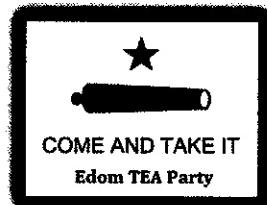
Maggie Wright, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party



Robin and Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.

Suezette Griffin, President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Mary and Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party



Dr. Dwayne Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party

Dean Wright, Co-founder/Director, New Revolution Now & the Austin TEA Party

Suzanne Guggenheim, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator – South Texas; Programs & Events Chairman, Corpus Christi TEA Party



Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRe



Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Mike Openshaw, Co-founder, Communications Director, North Texas TEA Party

Allen Tharp, President, San Antonio TEA Party

Jeremiah Hunter, Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party

Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D., a Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party



Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC

Holly Muskus, Smith County Republican Women



Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Ruth York, President, TEA Party Patriots of Eastland County; GOP Precinct Chair

Jan Shedd, Events Chair/Webmaster, Kaufman County TEA Party

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation



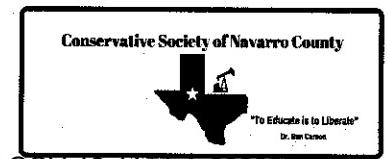
Judy J. Brady, Charter Member, Central Texas TEA Party

Don Dixon, Longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, San Antonio

Lyleann McClellan Thee, President, San Angelo TEA Party

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

Toni and Tom Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party



Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

Carroll Maxwell, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

Sue Evenwel, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 1

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots

Mary E.(Betty) Fallert, Steering committee member, Kaufman County TEA Party

Mike and Cindy Schwartz, Co-Founders, We The People-Longview TEA Party

Sarah Kate Meador Lipsett, Member, San Antonio TEA Party & Concho Valley Republican Women

Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party

Naomi Narvaiz, State Republican Executive Committee, Senate District 21

Connie Curry, West Texas Conservative Leadership

Craig Cosgray, Past President, Highland Lakes Tea Party

Elwood Smith, Chair, TEA Party Conservatives of Temple

Maria Espinoza & Timothy Lyng, Founders, The Remembrance Project

Karen Albright, President, Freestone County TEA Party

Mary Joe Cason, Organizer, Kaufman County TEA Party

Tanya Robertson, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 11

Deon Starnes, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 30

Mike Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives

Rick Jackson, Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party

David Carter, Bell County Election Judge, Precinct 311

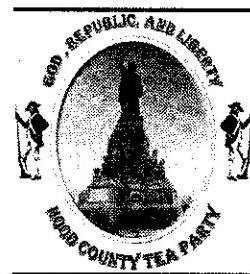
Dennis Cable, State GOP Executive Committeeman, Senate District 1

Carol Doucet, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Jackie King, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Dottie Barnes, Charter Member, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Kelly Canon, Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party



**Direct Action
TEXAS**

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Vicki Slaton, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 2

Susan Lucas, Denton County Conservative Coalition

Brady Whatley, Flower Mound Area Republican Club

David Ellis, Garland TEA Party

Bill Bingham, Spokesman, Bryan/College Station Tea Party

Deborah Bailey, San Angelo TEA Party

Brenda Schwartz, San Angelo TEA Party

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty

Evelyn Montalvo, Sugar Land TEA Party, Spirit of Freedom Republican Women

John Alaniz, former President, Central Texas TEA Party

Maria Martinez, Executive Director, Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas

Timna Rutledge, Publisher of *The Northeast Texan*

Richard & Judy Moscicki, Cherokee County Republicans

JJ & Anne King, Cherokee County Republicans

Dennis Kenney, Cherokee County Republican

Dr. Ivette Lozano, Secretary, Dallas County Republican Assembly

Mark Montgomery, President, Dallas County Republican Assembly

Judy Kent, President, Republican Women of Northeast Texas

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, LLC

Trevor Dupuy, a Founder & Past President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Adam Cahn, Austin political blogger, Cahnman's Musings

Bryan Slaton, Candidate, House District 2

Linda T. Zepeda, Titus County Republicans

Michael & Susan Najvar, Deep East Texas TEA Party, Gonzales

George Rodriguez, Broadcast Activist El Conservador

Rayford Brown, GOP Election Judge & Precinct Chair, Bell County

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project

Ed Brown, GOP Chairman, Precinct 1311, Fort Worth

Debbie Terry, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 12

Terri Dubose, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 19

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee member, Garland TEA Party

Donald & Barbara Lamontagne, Temple Area Conservatives

George Pangburn, President Highland Lakes Tea Party

Penny Story – Founder Constitutional Conservative Activists

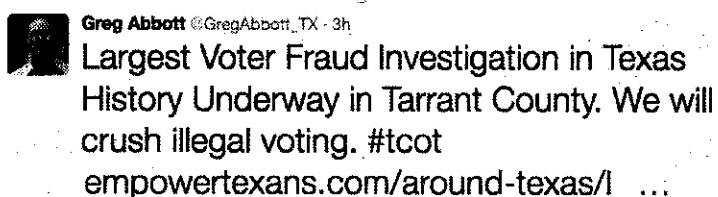
Joel Starnes, Organization for American Values

Alex Kim, Texas Elector CD24 & President Tarrant Republican Club

Rena and David French, Founding Members (Tyler), Grassroots America

* Organizations are listed
for identification
purposes.

Exhibit A: Governor Abbott's Tweets about Voter Fraud



Following

Voter Fraud allegations surface in South Texas. Ballot integrity will be a top issue this legislative session.



Following

Voter fraud reports in Dallas are deeply troubling. We continue our work to end illegal voting. #txlege #tcot



Following

Analysis: "evidence suggests that significant numbers of noncitizens cast ballots." Voter fraud must be eradicated.



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

July 9, 2019

Mrs. JoAnn S. Fleming
Executive Director
Grassroots America – We the People
P.O. Box 130012
Tyler, Texas 75713-0012

Dear Mrs. Fleming:

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Governor. Governor Abbott appreciated receiving the input and concerns regarding property tax and school finance reform from all of the signatories of your correspondence. Please know he remains dedicated to the conservative principles that form the foundation of the Lone Star State and to the Texas values of family, faith, and freedom.

Over the past decade, Texans made clear their concerns about skyrocketing property taxes as well as our state's public school finance system. In response to these concerns, in his State of the State address at the beginning of the recently concluded 86th Legislative Session, Governor Abbott declared reforming the state's public school finance and property tax systems to be an emergency item, challenging his partners in the Legislature to answer the concerns of taxpayers and parents to ensure comprehensive reform in Texas.

As a result, in June 2019, Governor Abbott was proud to sign into law Senate Bill 2 (SB 2) and House Bill 3 (HB 3), creating meaningful and lasting tax reforms that reinforce your private property rights by limiting the power of local taxing entities to increase taxes without voter approval and delivering the most significant educational transformation in Texas in nearly 40 years.

Under SB 2, most cities and counties in Texas will not be able to raise property tax revenue by more than 3.5 percent without triggering an election. To go above 3.5 percent, elected officials will have to make their case to the voters before raising taxes. This ensures that local governments live within their means, like Texas families do.

Likewise, because of HB 3, school districts will not be able to raise property tax revenue by more than 2.5 percent. There are other taxpayer protections in HB 3:

- Requires Boards of Trustees to conduct an efficiency audit prior to going out for a TRE starting in January 2020
- Adds ballot language stating “THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE” for bond elections
- Reinforces prior law so that M&O/Interest & Sinking tax swaps are illegal

Mrs. JoAnn S. Fleming

July 9, 2019

Page 2

The reforms also give Texas homeowners and business property owners new tools that protect the rights of taxpayers and property owners and increase transparency. SB 2 requires an online database of property tax related information that shows the proposed tax rates for each taxing unit and when they will meet to adopt a tax rate. Taxing units are also required to post their budgets, tax rates, and tax rate calculation worksheets online. The bill also makes numerous improvements to the protest process, including prohibiting an Appraisal Review Board (ARB) from increasing the value of a taxpayer's property above its initial value and increasing training requirements for ARB members and arbitrators.

Under HB 3, the State of Texas is putting more education dollars in the classroom. We are focusing funding on student need, not zip code. We are paying our teachers more and rewarding school districts for student outcomes. We are requiring all districts and charters provide for the use of a phonics curriculum that uses systematic direct instruction in K-3, and requires districts to prioritize the placement of highly effective teachers in K-2. And we are reducing the Robin Hood recapture so that more of your tax dollars stay in your school district. This historic bill also provides over \$5 billion to buy down property tax rates.

For more information about these recently enacted property tax and school finance reforms, please visit our office's website at <https://gov.texas.gov>.

Rest assured, Governor Abbott will continue working to ensure the Lone Star State remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

We thank and commend you for your commitment to the Lone Star State and your work on behalf of your communities. Please let us know if we can assist you in the future.

Sincerely,



Dede Keith
Deputy Director
Constituent Communication Division
Office of the Governor

DK:skg

Print Results for Correspondence Items**Correspondence ID:** 201705260665

Mr. Jacob Thomas

Mr. Thomas

<u>Organization & Address Information:</u>	<u>Phone Information:</u>
Direct Action Texas No Address Given	<u>Phone:</u> 817-996-6442 <u>Pager:</u> <u>Mobile:</u> <u>Fax:</u>

Correspondence Log:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Assign To</u>	<u>Date Mailed</u>
5/26/17 3:26 pm	Phone	Incoming	85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION		
5/26/17 3:26 pm	Phone	Incoming	GENERAL GOVERNMENT \ ELECTIONS - STATE POLICY		
5/26/17 3:26 pm	Phone	Incoming	WITHIN AGENCY TRANSFER		

Correspondence Detail:

I/O : I Date on Letter : 09/05/2019 Date Assigned: 09/05/2019
 Type: P Due Date: Assigned To:
 To First Lady: No Division Referred: Status: Closed
 CCed: No Agency Referred: NAR: No
 Keywords:

Comments

Would like to see HB 2559 signed, he has worked to get the mail in annual ballots because the previous law was misunderstood and led to possible voting fraud. Transferred to BP.

<u>Category</u>	<u>IssueMajor</u>	<u>IssueSub</u>	<u>ProCon</u>
85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION			No Opinion
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	ELECTIONS - STATE POLICY		No Opinion
WITHIN AGENCY TRANSFER			No Opinion

Courtesy Copied

Sullivan, Michael 201609011052

NAR/FYF



TEXAS
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION ASSOCIATION
Keeping Texas Families Free™



EMPOWERTEXANS

Anti-Gen Gov



August 30, 2016

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

RECEIVED

SEP 01 2016

OOG/CCOM

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Joe Straus
Speaker, Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Re: Texas Ethics Commission Repeated Lies in State and Federal Court / History of Abuse

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Straus:

We write to bring the outrageous conduct of the commissioners and staff of the Texas Ethics Commission to your attention and to call for the agency to be brought under the investigation and oversight of the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate.

The agency is pursuing rules and interpreting state statutes in ways that threaten the free speech rights not only of civic groups, but also of churches and individuals.

In defense of their unconstitutional actions, the TEC and the individual commissioners and staff have now been caught in blatant lies in federal and state court. The lies serve to prolong a vendetta against the state's leading conservative organizations.

Brief History of the Texas Ethics Commission

The current constitutional crisis at the TEC has been two and a half decades in the making.

The TEC was initially created at the behest of Democratic Governor Ann Richards. Presented to the voters via constitutional amendment, the TEC was billed as an agency that would take over from the legislature the job of recommending legislator salaries and setting the legislative per diem.

Also in the authorizing legislation was a grant of power allowing the legislature to confer additional duties to the TEC by statute.

The legislature granted to the TEC the power to investigate and prosecute Texans for violations of the state's lobby registration and election laws. Those statutes required the commission to adopt rules governing its proceedings in so-called "sworn complaint" proceedings. For more than 25 years, the commission has refused to adopt the rules mandated by statute.

Confidentiality provisions built into the statutes have been warped against the accused and manipulated by the TEC to shield the agency from scrutiny. Rather than protecting the accused from public allegations that they are "under investigation" for "ethics violations," the confidentiality rules instead empower the TEC commissioners to meet in secret where they harass and cajole their targets, typically for minor paperwork violations.

The statutes fail to impose any effective "speedy trial" or statute of limitations protections, and consequently, TEC investigations and prosecutions drag on for years, subjecting the TEC's targets to burdensome legal expenses. Such protracted beadledom has led to a backlog of hundreds of cases at the TEC where it takes nearly two years for a complaint to get a hearing.

At the TEC, the process is the punishment.

Cooperation with Far-Left State Ethics Agencies

Last year, the TEC was exposed in the national press for participating in a politically biased email group. The group was hosted by the state of Vermont and was used by left wing state ethics regulators to share strategies on how to defend aggressive anti-speech regulations.

In the exposé, national columnists J. Christian Adams and Hans Von Spakovsky released records showing that the staff attorneys for the TEC sought advice for their cases against conservative Texas groups. Participation included government employees in New York City and the following states: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New York, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. Texas was the only conservative "red" state participating in the email group.

In the electronic discussion, TEC staff praised articles from the left wing Brennan Center of New York City. The Brennan Center has been one of the chief voices in favor of undermining the *Citizens United* decision, recently praising the speech-chilling effects achieved by the “tough disclosure requirements and active enforcement culture” in California.

Similarly, attorneys on the Vermont email list who sought advice were referred to the Campaign Legal Center for assistance in tough cases. The Campaign Legal Center is a far-left organization funded by George Soros that champions burdensome anti-speech regulations.

Additionally, the commissioners and staff of the TEC attend and participate in the annual Council on Government Ethics Laws national conference. COGEL is a national umbrella organization of state ethics agencies committed to imposing greater speech regulations on Americans. In fact, long-time TEC commissioner Tom Harrison previously served as the Secretary-Treasurer of COGEL. The most recent COGEL conference featured Norm Eisen. A former Harvard classmate of Obama and one of his major bundlers, Eisen was appointed as the President’s “Ethics Czar.” During the question and answer period, Eisen defended Hillary Clinton as “an ethical person” and advocated for more aggressive regulation of speech.

The conference also featured the far-left chairman of the Federal Elections Commission, Ann Ravel, who drew national criticism after moving to regulate social media activity under campaign finance laws. Likewise featured was Kevin Kennedy, the disgraced former executive director of the Wisconsin Governmental Accountability Board. The GAB was abolished and Kennedy was fired by the Wisconsin legislature after the agency coordinated pre-dawn raids on the homes of conservative activists. The raids were in response to allegations that the activists coordinated their speech with the reelection campaign of Governor Scott Walker. Kennedy and the GAB were condemned by the Wisconsin Supreme Court for pursuing cases that had no basis in law or fact.

TEC Executive Director Natalia Ashley was named to COGEL’s 2016 steering committee, signaling that the TEC’s role in the organization is growing.

Lies in Federal and State Court

Desperate to advance the far-left anti-speech agenda of COGEL in Texas, the TEC commissioners have resorted to telling outright lies in state and federal courts.

Last year, in procuring a dismissal of a suit brought against them by the Lake Travis Citizens’ Council, the TEC commissioners assured the Federal District Court for the Western District of Texas that the Citizens’ Council, a nonprofit corporation, could not be prosecuted for failing to register as a political committee because the Council, as a person and not a “group of persons,” could never meet the definition of a political committee under Texas law. Concluding that corporations, like the Lake Travis Citizens Council, were not at risk of being prosecuted for

failing to register as a political committee, District Judge Lee Yeakel dismissed the *Lake Travis* case on December 14, 2015.

That concession should have protected churches and other non-profit civic organizations from allegations that they failed to register as political committees.

However, the TEC commissioners have refused to end legal cases against comparable non-profit organizations, including Empower Texans and the Texas Home School Coalition.

On June 30, 2016, in their brief to the Austin Court of Appeals in *Empower Texans, Inc., et. al. v. State of Texas Ethics Commission, et. al.*, the TEC commissioners defended their right to continue investigating Empower Texans under a theory that Empower Texans failed to register with the commission as a political committee. The brief, in its entirety, serves as a repudiation of the promises made by the commissioners in 2015 in Federal District Court and a rejection of *Citizens United* and other decisions protective of the First Amendment.

Moreover, the commissioners lied to the Austin Court of Appeals.

At the center of the arguments by the TEC commissioners are five emails from Empower Texans from 2011. The emails included an online donation button and a plea that readers “consider making a monthly or one time contribution of \$5, \$10, or \$25 to fund independent expenditure activities that promote conservative leadership in the Lone Star State.” In their pleadings, the commissioners argue that the appearance of that language and the donate button in five emails caused Empower Texans and its donors to somehow morph into a political committee. The commissioners claim the power to regulate, prosecute, and punish Empower Texans for failing to register as a political committee and are attempting to force the organization to disclose the privacy of its donors.

The TEC commissioners’ arguments directly contradicts the promises they made in federal court last year.

In their brief, the commissioners conceded:

“This case would be resolved if Empower Texans … confirmed that \$375 was the total number of donations from the ads. A number lower than \$500 would not even trigger an inquiry into the motivations of the participants, and whether they were shared.”

Attached to the commissioners’ very own brief was a spreadsheet along with several emails confirming that Empower Texans received less than \$500 from the five emails. The TEC has known for 28 months that the facts do not support their investigation, even under their disputed theory.

After the commissioners were made aware that their statement was false, they again refused to dismiss their investigation into Empower Texans. Instead, TEC Chairman Chase Untermeyer took to the pages of the *Houston Chronicle*, promising to continue the agency's crusade against the agency's conservative opponents and pejoratively referring to the donors to such organizations as "bashful billionaires" while arguing a right to force their disclosure.

War on Churches

While the TEC's collaboration with liberal states has garnered a national spotlight, its war on churches and religious figures has received insufficient attention.

When the City of Houston and Mayor Annise Parker attempted to subpoena the records of churches opposed to the Houston transgender bathroom ordinance, Republican officeholders rallied in unison to condemn the attacks and defend the churches.

Yet the TEC has engaged in worse behavior with little attention from the elected leaders who have the ability to curtail their abuses.

The TEC commissioners have advanced rules that would heavily regulate churches that engage in advocacy regarding ballot initiatives, bond elections, constitutional amendment elections, local option liquor elections, and recall efforts.

In El Paso, the TEC's rules were used against Bishop Tom Brown. Over the past five years, Brown has been subjected to litigation under the allegation that his church violated election laws because he and his congregation circulated a petition to recall former El Paso Mayor John Cook. The recall effort came after Cook issued city health insurance benefits to homosexual and unmarried partners of city employees. Brown was forced to finally settle the case for nearly \$500,000 in order to save his church from bankruptcy.

The TEC commissioners themselves have litigated against churches as well. In *Joint Heirs Fellowship Church, et. al. v. Natalia Ashley, et. al.*, the TEC opposed two Houston churches and a San Antonio church over their right to engage in a potential San Antonio recall election. The TEC refused to concede that the churches would not be required to register as political committees if they and their members participated in gathering signatures for recall election petitions.

The gravity of the TEC's position cannot be understated.

If a church is determined by the TEC commissioners to be a political committee, then it would be compelled to disclose in elaborate reports the identities of those members who choose to tithe and the amounts the members give. In fact, regulated churches would effectively be barred from passing a collection plate because anonymous contributions would render the church unable to

comply with burdensome campaign finance disclosure requirements. And if a church refused to comply, or made a mistake on their paperwork, the pastor and other church members could be subject to criminal penalties.

Investigation and Oversight Needed

How far can these commissioners go in trampling the constitutional rights of Texans before drawing scrutiny? How many times must the commissioners be caught lying to the courts before they are held accountable?

The Senate Committee on State Affairs will be holding a hearing on an interim charge regarding ethics legislation on October 5, 2016. The hearing presents an ideal opportunity for senators to demand answers from the TEC commissioners on the following and other issues:

- How do the TEC commissioners justify telling one federal court that the TEC would not prosecute non-profit groups for failing to register as political committees, while simultaneously pursuing claims against other non-profit groups in state court?
- Do the TEC commissioners respect the US Supreme Court's decisions in *Citizens United* and *United States v. McIntyre* that secured the right of organizations to speak on the most salient issues of the day, and to speak anonymously when they so choose?
- Do the TEC commissioners continue to collaborate with liberal states and far-left officials and activists to develop strategies to attack and silence conservative groups in Texas?
- Will the TEC commissioners continue to prosecute complaints against Texas churches under state election laws?

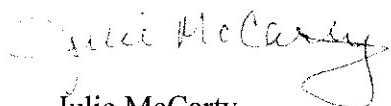
The Texas House of Representatives should follow suit and investigate the commissioners and staff at the TEC for their inexcusable and inexplicable actions. They must be held accountable.

The Texas Ethics Commission presents a great threat to the constitutionally protected liberties of 27 million Texans. All of the commissioners need to be replaced, and the agency needs to be fundamentally reformed or abolished.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Fleming
Executive Director
Grassroots America – We The People



Julie McCarty
President
NE Tarrant Tea Party



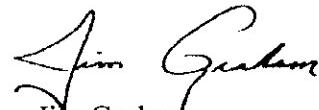
Tim Lambert
President
Texas Home School Coalition



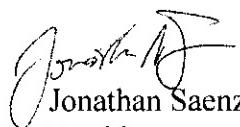
Rev. Dave Welch
President
Texas Pastor Council



Michael Quinn Sullivan
President
Empower Texans



Jim Graham
President
Texas Right to Life



Jonathan Saenz
President
Texas Values



EMPOWER TEXANS

P.O. Box 200248
Austin, Texas 78720

CC: All Republican Legislators

Sullivan Michael Quinn
20170202 1158

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House

Dear Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, and Speaker Straus:

The supplemental budget for the current biennium means that both the Texas House and Senate are violating the spirit of the Republican Party platform call to keep spending less than population growth combined with inflation. As numbers compiled by the Texas Public Policy Foundation indicate, if either the proposed House or Senate supplemental to the 2016-2017 budget is passed, it will mean that the Legislature did not, in fact, pass a conservative budget in 2015. Worse, it will set an even more unaffordable floor for the next budget.

For the next biennium, Texas House budget writers have proposed spending that exceeds both the Comptroller's official revenue estimate and the spirit of the Texas GOP platform's defined conservative levels. The Texas Senate, meanwhile, has put forward a 2018-2019 budget that lives within available revenues and the population growth plus inflation limit – the spending limit strongly supported by taxpayers, grassroots conservative activists, and the Republican Party platform.

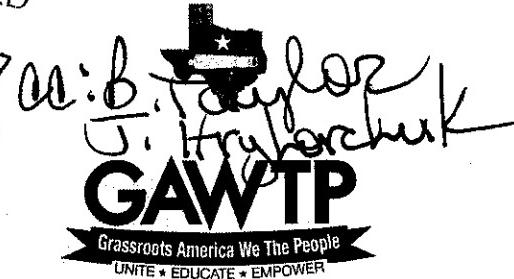
It is inexcusable for House budget writers to consider using the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) rather than reduce spending. Spending down the fund just because it exists is not wise, nor fiscally conservative.

We call on you to reduce the size of the 2016-2017 supplemental budget and adopt a 2018-2019 budget that is *at the very least* as conservative as the one proposed by the Texas Senate. Anything beyond that will be an affront to taxpayers, conservative activists, and Republican voters.

For Liberty – for Texas,

Michael Quinn Sullivan President, Empower Texans
JoAnn Fleming Executive Director, Grassroots America COG/CCOM
Trayce Bradford President, Texas Eagle Forum
Toni & Tom Fabry Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party
Mary & Dale Huls Executive Board Members, Clear Lake TEA Party
Bill Hussey Founder/Past President, Llano Tea Party
Robin & Jim Lennon President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party
Julie McCarty President, NE Tarrant TEA Party
Stacy McMahan Exec. Director/President, East Texans for Liberty
Ray Myers President, Kaufman County TEA Party
Dean Wright Director, New Revolution Now; Austin TEA Party

*S. Albright
Anti Budget/Per
RECEIVED
FEB 01 2017
Appointments*
Empower Texans



Texas Eagle Forum



TX-GOV-19-1114-A-000105

Texas Free Market Coalition

20170425 0508

Texas Free Market Coalition

An Open Letter to Mr. Warren Buffett
RECEIVED

April 24, 2017

APR 25 2017

Dear Mr. Buffett,

OOG/CCOM

Thank you for drawing attention to Texas' protectionist auto dealership laws. For decades, the auto dealership lobby has funneled millions of dollars into the campaign coffers of politicians who claim to be free market champions in order to protect dealer markups from the free market. **Welcome to the fight.**

Unfortunately, we have concerns about your proposed solution. While we agree that ownership of an RV production facility should not preclude ownership of an auto dealership in Texas, your turbo-tracked SB 2279 by Texas Republican Sen. Kelly Hancock offers limited relief – much too limited.

Senator Hancock's bill relies upon what Ross Ramsey of the *Texas Tribune* called "the kind of distinction lawyers are paid to conjure" to allow a politically favored entity access to the Texas auto market. If this bill were to pass, Texas consumers would still be held hostage to the dealer markup of the auto sales lobby. **Too bad for us – right, Mr. Buffett?**

While other industries are allowed to innovate and modernize, creating efficiencies, saving consumers money, and improving customer service, the Texas auto industry remains stuck in the past. Worst of all, they rely on government protection to maintain their monopoly. **Yes, the reality is that most of our Texas politicians who claim to be free market champions are happy to engage in protectionism and to use our tax dollars to pick winners and losers.**

In picking winners and losers, politically directed allocation of capital impoverishes us all. As the Texas Public Policy Foundation explains in their 2016 publication *Policymaker's Guide to Corporate Welfare*: "proponents of corporate welfare suffer from a false belief in central planning. They believe that either they or government planners can best determine the [business model] that has the best chance of success, which jobs and products best supply society's needs, and where best to expend scarce supplies of capital. They believe that they just can't sit back and let the economy take care of itself; they have to take money and property from citizens in order to solve the citizens' problems for them." This special interest-laden intermingling of business and government inevitably begets fewer jobs and a higher cost of living.

Fortunately, Mr. Buffett, a better alternative exists. SB 2093 and HB 4236 have been filed in their respective chambers by free market champions Texas Sen. Bob Hall and Texas Rep. Jason Isaac. These direct sales bills would repeal the laws in question. **If those bills were to pass, you would be able to own dealerships in Texas, while Texas consumers would benefit from more options at lower prices.** It's a win/win or what economists call a "positive sum outcome."

NAD DC
Cat: 88th LS

GAWTP

Grassroots America We The People
UNITE * EDUCATE * EMPOWER

MFISB 2279-000
J.B. Taylor
C. Leah

Texas Eagle Forum



Unlike your special SB 2279, which was written, filed, and passed out of committee in three days' time – more than a month AFTER the official deadline for filing bills – these clean “no carve-out, no special perks” direct sales bills have been languishing in committees chaired by Texas Sen. Kelly Hancock and Texas Rep. John Keumpel. The opportunity still exists for these free market alternatives to cross Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's desk. Your support for SB 2093 and HB 4236 would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Buffett, we are just ordinary Texans fighting to keep some of our hard-earned money through true free market choice, unhampered by government meddling. Since you obviously have much more influence over our state officials than we do, we ask for your help in passing the direct sales bills that would benefit all Texans.

Noted philanthropist that you are, your assistance in passing SB 2093 and HB 4236 in the Texas Legislature is eagerly awaited.

Sincerely, the undersigned supporters of a Texas Free Market,*

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Adam Cahn, political blogger, Cahnman's Musings

Cathie Adams, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas Eagle Forum

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party

Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party

Dana Hodges, Republican Party Precinct #9 Chair, Orange County

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County TEA Party

George Rodriguez, El Conservador, Broadcast Activist

Maggie Wright, Founding member, past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Robin and Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.

Jackie King, Co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Suezette Griffin, President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Mary and Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party



Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty

Dr. Dwayne Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party

Dean Wright, Co-founder/Director, New Revolution Now & the Austin TEA Party

Suzanne Guggenheim, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator – South Texas; Programs & Events Chairman, Corpus Christi TEA Party

Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRe

Barbara Harless, Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby

Judy Kent, President, Republican Women of Northeast Texas

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Mike Openshaw, Co-founder , Communications Director, North Texas TEA Party

Toby Marie Walker, President, Waco TEA Party

Allen Tharp, President, San Antonio TEA Party

Jim Speiran, GOTV Committee Chair, Grassroots America; Chair, Smith County GOP Precinct 75

Jeremiah Hunter, Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party

Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D., A Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Liz Theiss, Founder, Stop the Magnet

Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club & William Schoolcraft, longtime Cherokee County Republican

Marcia Daughtrey, Vice Chairman, Smith County Republican Party

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Ruth York, President, TEA Party Patriots of Eastland County

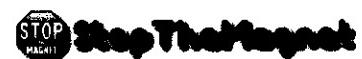
Connie Curry, West Texas Conservative Leadership

Jan Shedd, Events Chair/Webmaster, Kaufman County TEA Party

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation

Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, San Antonio

Lyleann McClellan Thee, President, San Angelo TEA Party



Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

Doug McCullough, Canton TEA Party

Toni and Tom Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party

Rene Poe, Founder, Executive Committee member, Hood County TEA Party

Teresa Beckmeyer, Republican Party County Chair, Mitchell County

Kelly Canon, Co-founder & Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

Brady Whatley, Flower Mound Area Republicans

Ben Davis, Canton TEA Party

Carroll Maxwell, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

Sue Evenwel, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 1

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots

Bill Bingham, Spokesman, Bryan/College Station TEA Party

Mary E.(Betty) Fallert, Steering committee member, Kaufman County TEA Party

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall

David Ellis, Garland TEA Party

Mike and Cindy Schwartz, Co-Founders, We The People-Longview TEA Party

Dennis R. McKee, Kaufman County TEA Party

Trevor Dupuy, a Founder & Past President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, LLC



CC: The Honorable Governor Greg Abbott

The Honorable Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

Texas Senate Committee on Business & Finance:

Position	Member
Chair:	The Honorable Senator Kelly Hancock
Vice Chair:	The Honorable Senator Brandon Creighton



Fredericksburg TEA Party



GET OFF MY STATE
FEDERALISM IS THE SOLUTION

Honorable Committee Members:	Senator Donna Campbell, Senator Craig Estes, Senator Robert Nichols, Senator Charles Schwertner, Senator Larry Taylor, Senator John Whitmire, Senator Judith Zaffirini
-------------------------------------	--

All other Texas Senators:

The Honorable Senator Paul Bettencourt
 The Honorable Senator Brian Birdwell
 The Honorable Senator Konni Burton
 The Honorable Senator Dawn Buckingham
 The Honorable Senator Sylvia Garcia
 The Honorable Senator Bob Hall
 The Honorable Senator Juan Hinojosa
 The Honorable Senator Don Huffines
 The Honorable Senator Joan Huffman
 The Honorable Senator Bryan Hughes
 The Honorable Senator Lois Kolkhorst
 The Honorable Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
 The Honorable Senator José Menéndez
 The Honorable Senator Borris Miles
 The Honorable Senator Jane Nelson
 The Honorable Senator Charles Perry
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 The Honorable Senator Kel Seliger
 The Honorable Senator Van Taylor
 The Honorable Senator Carlos Uresti
 The Honorable Senator Kirk Watson
 The Honorable Senator Royce West

* Organizations are listed for identification purposes.
 All expenditures related to production were assumed and reported by Grassroots America – We the People PAC.

Webb, Valerie
201904151495

Valerie Webb
w/ EMPOWER TEXANS



NAAFFG

Cut: Budget fees

MX: TX TAX-Property



April 12, 2019

RECEIVED

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

APR 15 2019

RE: Permanent Property Tax Relief

OOG/CCQM

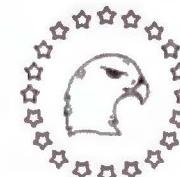
Dear Governor Abbott:

With billions in excess revenue flowing into state coffers over the next two years, Texas lawmakers have an unprecedented opportunity to provide **permanent property tax relief** to all Texas families, but rather than return money to taxpayers in the form of meaningful property tax relief, legislators have gone on a spending spree.

According to an analysis by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, the Texas House plan for spending (HB1) is up 13.8% in all funds (all state funds + federal funds) and 14.4% in just state funds (**excluding Harvey recovery dollars**), meaning both far exceed the Conservative Texas Budget limits of 8% in population growth plus inflation. The Senate's budget at \$239.1 billion, excluding Harvey money and including supplemental appropriations, is up 10 percent in total, also above the Conservative Texas Budget limit, but closer than the House's budget.

So far, this legislative session, little has been done to protect taxpayers or encourage conservatives to fight for Republicans in 2020. We call on you to demand better of our Republican legislators before they surrender the state to Democrat control.

Republican lawmakers have a choice; spend the new windfall and grow government or return it to taxpayers in the form of lower school tax bills.



Texas Eagle Forum



from
gross
Rally on Tues @ noon

TX-GOV-19-1114-A-000111

Unfortunately, current proposals, such as House Bill 3, plan to spend up to 70 percent of this surplus on higher spending, rather than on reducing school property tax bills. That's \$6.3 billion in new public education spending *in addition* to another \$2 billion to pay for student enrollment growth.

Only 30 percent—or \$2.7 billion of the \$9 billion of new state spending—would go toward reducing local school property tax rates by an average of 4 cents per \$100 of property valuation. For a Texan with a \$200,000 home, they could see annual savings of \$80; however, if their appraisal value increases 3 percent or more over the next two years, homeowners will never see or feel permanent tax relief.

As proposed by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Republican lawmakers should pass a bill that would force the State of Texas to make relief permanent, by **dedicating 90 percent of all surplus state revenue to lowering school tax bills.**

In addition to failing to propose significant and permanent tax relief, Republican lawmakers are not pushing to phase out the unfair and unpopular wealth redistribution scheme known as the “Robin Hood” property tax, which overtaxes an increasing number of Texas families each year.

While lawmakers supporting HB 3 claim it would “reduce Robin Hood recapture by 38 percent,” their own numbers prove this to be false. HB 3 would only *prevent recapture from increasing*; it would *not reduce recapture!*

According to the Texas Education Agency, total recapture statewide was **\$4.74 billion** in the 2018-19 biennium. Upon passage of HB 3, recapture would remain flat at **\$4.7 billion** over the next two years (2020-2021).

Governor, along with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, you have supported an important property tax *reform* to help slow the growth of property tax bills. A necessary component of any such reform is empowering taxpayers with more control over tax burdens by requiring cities, counties, and school districts to obtain voter approval for annual tax hikes of 2.5 percent or more – a policy supported by 77 percent of Texans (Quinnipiac University poll released 02.26.19). These tax hike elections must be required to be held on a November uniform election date.

But property tax reform is not enough. Slowing the growth of stifling tax bills is not enough.



Texans are taxed enough already and will not be satisfied with lawmakers if they merely protect the status quo. Texans want, need, and deserve a net reduction in their property tax bills, and the state has the money through existing revenue streams to provide permanent tax relief, without raising new taxes or fees.

We call on you to push Republican lawmakers to pass property tax reform (SB2/HB2) with the 2.5 percent rollback rate applied to **every local taxing entity** in the state—including school districts—and require automatic November tax ratification elections. **We strongly oppose any effort to water down the legislation.**

We recognize that whether funding comes from state coffers or local coffers, it all ultimately comes from the wallets of taxpayers. Statewide, property tax increases have greatly outpaced the average taxpayer's ability to pay. From 2012 to 2017, **local property tax revenues soared by almost 40 percent across the entire state**, according to the Comptroller's Biennial Property Tax Report. That's well above population growth and inflation increases, which rose just 15.3 percent.

We call on Republican lawmakers to pass permanent tax relief by increasing the state's share of public education spending. A **majority** of surplus state revenue—\$4.6 billion, or more—should be dedicated to buying down school M&O property tax rates.

Likewise, we also call on Republican lawmakers to make property tax relief permanent, by amending law to require that 90 percent of future surplus state revenue be dedicated to lowering school M&O property taxes, until it's entirely repealed. Once repealed, Robin Hood would be eliminated, and the average Texan would see a 40 percent reduction in their total property tax burden.

Governor Abbott, whether this session will be remembered as one in which legislators delivered on long-made promises to taxpayers *or marked the end of Republican control of the Texas legislature*, it rests in **your hands. We are counting on you.**

Respectfully, the undersigned Texas grassroots political leaders, *

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Michael Quinn Sullivan, CEO, Empower Texans

Cathie Adams, 1st VP, Eagle Forum, Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum, HD 98, SD 9, Grapevine



Joe Adams, Chair, Delta County Republican Party, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

Sam Anderson, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Flower Mound Area Republican Club, HD 63, SD 12, Flower Mound

Tami Andrews, Community Affairs Chair, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Margie Arens, 1st VP, Denton Republican Women's Club, HD 64, Argyle

Sharon Armke, Concerned Parents of Texas, HD 45, SD 25, Dripping Springs

Jennifer Audet, Treasurer, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gladewater

Janet Baber, Prec. Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Russ Bafford, Sr., President, Robson Ranch Republican Club, HD 64, SD 12, Denton

Deborah Bailey, Secretary, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Brett Baldwin, Precinct Chairman, Collin County Republican Party, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Dottie Barnes, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Marcia Barnett, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Parliamentarian, Republican Women of Denton, Collin & Dallas County, HD 65, SD 12, Carrollton

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Jimmy & Jean Bassinger, HD 65, SD 12, Highland Village

Peter Batura, Vice President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 132, SD 17, Katy

Susan Bayne, Precinct Chair, Bexar County Republican Party, HD 122, SD 25, San Antonio

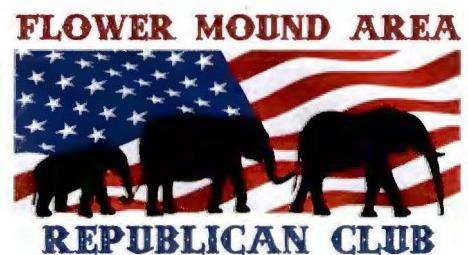
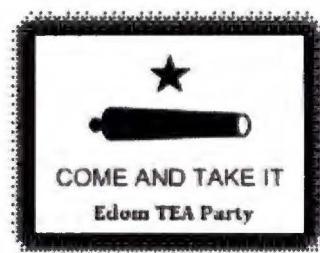
Annette Bennett, Prec. Chair, Gillespie County Republican Party, Fredericksburg Tea Party; HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Beth Biesel, Co-Chair, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 108, SD 16, University Park

Bill Bingham, past Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 14, SD 5, College Station

Tammy Blair, past Chairman, Cherokee County Republican Party, East Texans for Liberty, HD 11, SD 3, Bullard

Elena Blake, Irving Republican Women, HD 105, SD 16, Irving



Richard Bohnert, Fredericksburg Tea Party, Llano Tea Party, Convention of States, HD 53, SD 24, Comfort

Joanna Bowen, Secretary, Lake Country Republican Club, Hawkins/Holly Lake Republican Club, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Judy Brady, President, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 54, SD 24, Salado

Barrett Breedlove, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Sherry Breedlove, East Texans for Liberty, Big Sandy

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

Wes Brumit, Chairman, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL), HD 9, SD 1, Longview

Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Adam Cahn, Austin political blogger, Cahnman's Musings, HD 51, SD 21, Austin

Art Cameron, former Prec. Chair, Smith Co. Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Tyler

David Carter, Central Texas TEA Party, John Birch Society, HD 55, SD 24, Temple

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Ramiro Castillo, Pastor, Southern Oaks Baptist Church, HD 14, SD 5, College Station

Janna Castloo, Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Della Clark, Charter Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Anne Coker, Board Member, Project Fort Worth, HD 93, SD 10, Arlington

Dr. Dwayne "Doc" Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler

Wayne Coltrane, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, HD 67, SD 8, Plano

Craig Cosgray, President, Highland Lakes Tea Party, HD 20, SD 24, Spicewood

Connie Curry, Founder, West Texas Conservative Leadership, HD 83, SD 28, Lubbock

McKenna Dallmeyer, Convention of States, HD 136, SD 5, Cedar Park

Michelle McWilliams Davis, District Captain, Convention of States, HD 24, SD 24, League City



William Decker IV, Edom Tea Party, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Luke DiSilvestro, HD 4, SD 3, Brownsboro

Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, HD 121, SD 25, San Antonio

Frank Dobrovolny, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Jacksonville

Jim & Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Carol Doucet, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County & Navarro County TEA Party, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Terri DuBose, Precinct Chair, Real County Republican Party, former SREC SD 19, HD 53, SD 19, Leakey

Trevor Dupuy, Founder & Coordinator, Horseshoe Bay Conservative Caucus, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay

Rick & Kathy Eisenbach, President, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

William Ely, Director, Cypress Texas Tea Party, HD 130, SD 7, Cypress

Sharon Emmert, self-retired Smith County Commissioner, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Sue Evenwel, SREC, Senate District 1; Chair, Titus County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mt Pleasant

Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Betty Fallert, Membership Chair, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Crandall

Mary Anne Farrow, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Davis Ford, 1st VP, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 55, SD 24, Temple

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall, HD 47, SD 24, Austin

Kat Fox, past Steering Committee Member, Kaufman County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 2, Mabank

Rena & David French, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People, HD 11, SD 3, Bullard

Bill & Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Gary Gentz, Member, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Eustace

Jill Glover, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 63, SD 12, Denton

Daniel Greer, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas, HD 17, SD 14, Elgin



Suezette Griffin, Past President, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Pearland

Suzanne Guggenheim, President, Coastal Bend Tea Party, HD 31, SD 20, Corpus Christi

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF), HD 53, SD 24, Ingram

David Halvorson, SREC SD 12, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Barbara Harless, Co-Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Danny & Marilyn Harris, HD 106, SD 30, Sanger

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots, HD 98, SD 1, Atlanta

Carole Haynes, Ph.D., Founder, American Citizens Matter, HD 64, SD 12, Hickory Creek

Jill Youngblood Hilber, VP Legislation, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Martin Hilber, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Greg Holton, Regional Captain, Convention of States Texas, HD 2, SD 2, Sulphur Springs

Steve & Alfiya House, HD 3, SD 4, Montgomery

Connie Hudson, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, 3rd Vice Chair, Legacy Republican Club, HD 106, SD 12, The Colony

Mary & Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Jeremiah Hunter, 2018 Delegate, Republican Party of TX Convention, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Bill Hussey, Founder & Vice President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Eric & Mirielle Inman, Prec. Chair, Denton County GOP, HD 63, SD 26, Ponder

Rick Jackson, Precinct Chair, Kaufman County Republican Party, Vice Chairman, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Forney

Wallace Johnson, Precinct Chair, Brazos County Republican Party, Bryan

Hannah Jones, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Sharon Jones, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Denton County Conservative Coalition, Legacy Republican Club, HD 106, SD 12, The Colony

Jackie King, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 8, SD 22, Purdon



Michael Kinzie, Founder, TEAParty911.com, HD 130, SD 7, Tomball

Larry Korkmas, President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Loretta Kusek, HD 119, SD 28, Live Oak

Robin & Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc., Cleveland

Amanda L'Esperance, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

Craig Licciardi, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party; Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Flint

Alice Linahan, Vice President, Women on the Wall, HD 63, SD 12, Northlake

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Dr. Ivette Lozano, former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly, HD 108, SD 2, Dallas

Susan Lucas, Bryan/College Station TEA Party, HD 14, SD 5, Bryan

Terry Lynch, past President, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Dalton Lytle, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Tom Maddox, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Maria Martinez, Houston Inner Loop Grassroots, HD 132, SD 13, Houston

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Ginger McDaniel, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Membership Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 64, SD 12, Argyle

Gloria McDonald, Technology Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 63, SD 12, Bartonville

Dennis McKee, Treasurer, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Kemp

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1

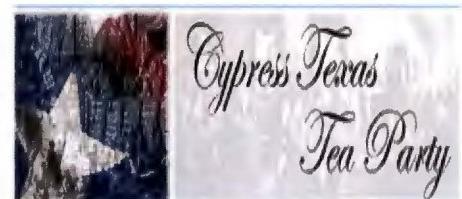
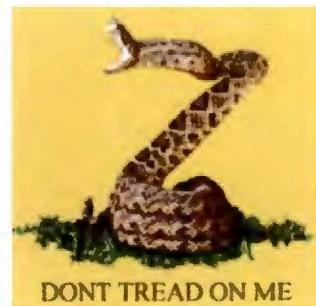
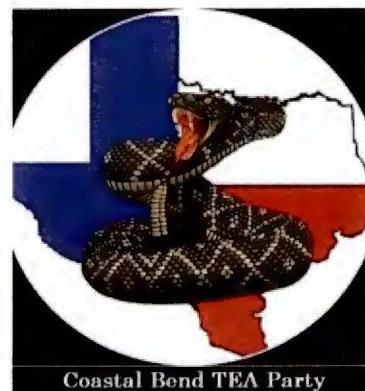
Greg McReynolds, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Mark Metzger, Prec. Chair, Bexar Co. GOP, HD 122, SD 25, San Antonio

Terri Miller, Founder/President, STAR Republicans, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Dr. Royce Mitchell, Precinct Chair, Brazoria County Republican Party, HD 29, SD 11, Manvel

Thomas Morgan, Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler



Frank Motsenbocker, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Michael & Susan Najvar, Deep East Texas TEA Party, HD 17, SD 18, Gonzales

Naomi Narvaiz, Former State Republican Executive Committee SD 21, HD 45, SD 21, San Marcos

Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

Michael Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives, HD 61, SD 30, Fort Worth

Mike Openshaw, Founder, Texas Legislative Watch, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Karla O'quin, San Angelo TEA Party, San Angelo Republican Women, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Darlene Pendery, HD 63, SD 12, Flower Mound

Tillie Perkins, President, RED Texas Forum, HD 107, SD 2, Mesquite

Jerry Phillips, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Rene Poe, Vice President, Hood County Tea Party, HD 60, SD 22, Granbury

Kathy Ponce, President, Freedom Tea Party Patriots, HD 10, SD 22, Maypearl

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections, HD 50, SD 14, Copperas Cove

Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Jody Quimby, Board Member, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 12, SD 5, Bryan

Mark Ramsey, SREC SD 7, Chair, SREC Legislative Priorities Committee, HD 150, SD 7, Spring

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

John Rappazzo, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Judson

Connie Ratisseau, Board Member, Clear Lake TEA Party & Phillip Ratisseau, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party, HD 24, SD 9, Fort Worth

Marty Rhymes, Vice Chair, Republican Party of Gregg County, Treasurer, Republican Club of Gregg County, HD 7, SD 1, White Oak

Kathi-Ann Rivard, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, Golden Corridor Republican Women, Frisco Tea Party, HD 70, SD 30, Prosper

Tanya Robertson, SREC, Senate District 11, HD 129, SD 11, Seabrook



Red Texas Forum - Dallas



Ruben Salinas, SD 12, Roanoke

Barry Schlech, PhD, Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Rusk

Jan Shedd, Surrogate, The Remembrance Project, HD 4, SD 2, Kaufman

Bryan Slaton, Leader, SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition, Vice President, Ethics and Political Economy Center (EPEC), HD 2, SD 2, Royse City

Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) SREC SD 2; SD 2 Grassroots Coalition leader, HD 113, SD 2, Sunnyvale

Angela Smith, Founder & Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Alan Smith, Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Liz Smith, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Dr. Gregory Smith, Republican Election Clerk, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Joan Somma, Board Member, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 134, SD 17, Houston

Jim Speiran, Past Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, Finance Committee Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Bullard

Jim Stanley, Chairman, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Georgia Stapleton, Board Member, Project Fort Worth, HD 97, SD 10, Fort Worth

Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

Kathy Stonaker, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Heather Stoner, President, Smith County Republican Women, Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

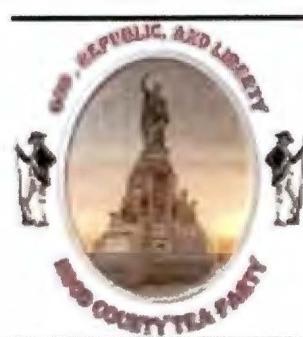
Penny Story, founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists, HD 10, SD 22, Red Oak

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State LLC, HD 18, SD 3, Cleveland

Mike Sweeney, Central Texas Tea Party, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Jimmie Taylor, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler

Debbie Terry, SREC Committeewoman, Senate District 12, HD 64, SD 12, Denton



Kaaren Teuber, Coordinator, Texoma Patriots, HD 62, SD 30, Van Alstyne

Elizabeth Theiss, President, Stop the Magnet, HD 134, SD 15, Houston

Jim Thompson, Conservative Grassroots Coalition SD 2, HD 2, SD 2, Sulphur Springs

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC, HD 15, SD 4, Magnolia

Bela Toth, Board Member, Pearland Tea Party, Pearland

Jerry Trollinger, Chairman, Van Zandt County Tea Party, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project, HD 5, SD 1, Hideway

Lou Vail, Chair, Knox County Republican Party, HD 69, SD 28, Knox City

Karl Voigtsberger, Former SREC SD 8, Board Member, McKinney Tea Party, HD 67, SD 8, Richardson

Carol Walliser, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

David Watts, Board Member, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Desiree Watts, Legislative Committee Chair, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Brenda White, Precinct Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party, HD 98, SD 9, Keller

John White, past Master at Arms, Rockwall GOP, HD 33, SD 2, Rockwall

Gary Whitehorn, Board Member, We the People - Longview, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Marshall Winegar, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 106, SD 26, The Colony

Allison Winter, Montgomery County Tea Party; SREC SD 4, HD 15, SD 4, Spring

Maggie Wright, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Ruth York, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, HD 60, SD 28, Cisco

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation, HD 53, SD 24, Bandera



This letter was signed by 195 grassroots political leaders, representing 144 unique organizations, groups, and districts across Texas.

CC: The Honorable Lt. Governor Dan Patrick



The Texas Conservative
Grassroots Coalition
is the premier project
of
Grassroots America
We the People PAC.

*Organizations listed for
identification purposes only.

Paid for by Grassroots America - We the People PAC.

Williamson Morgan
201706070748
Dede Keith

NAR/EQ
Oct 8 LS
MT. 85 LS Special
SF Property Tax - PA

From: Ben Taylor
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:26 PM
To: Dede Keith
Subject: Empower Texans

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Morgan Williamson" <letters@empowertexans.com>
Date: May 31, 2017 11:41 AM
Subject: Property tax reform

Ben,

You know this as well as I do: Texans suffer under a horribly burdensome property tax system, and it is only getting worse.

The Senate, led by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, passed a strong reform to give voters real power in controlling property tax burdens. The Texas House did virtually nothing. (*I know you're shocked.*)

GOP lawmakers who all campaign on the problem of high property taxes are heading home, hoping no one will ask why their leaders— like House Speaker Joe Straus and Republican caucus chairman Tan Parker – obstructed efforts designed to empower taxpayers.

It's tempting to just let House members stew in their failure, but that only hurts Texans who are already suffering.

Fortunately, **Gov. Greg Abbott can put right what the House did so wrong.** He can call a special session for comprehensive property tax reform.

Let Gov. Abbott know you support a special session on property tax reform: complete the online petition and call his office at (512) 463-2000.

For Texas!

Morgan Williamson

[REDACTED]
Empower Texans
Texas Scorecard & Texans for Fiscal Responsibility

(888) 410-1836

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016

6/29/16 1:17 PM

Attire: Business

Lunch: TBD

8:55 am	Newsmakers Breakfast: The Daily Signal and The Heritage Foundation
Location:	The Heritage Foundation
Room:	Zimdahl, 7 th Floor
Contact:	Sarah Mills, Director of Media Relations, Heritage Foundation; Harold Kazianis, Senior Communications Manager, Foreign Policy and Legal Studies, Heritage Foundation; Kristen Indriago, Southwest Regional Media Associate, The Heritage Foundation
Staff:	Daniel Hodge, Matt Hirsch, Christopher Gruning, 512-660-8656 m
Press:	Open
Attendees:	Ken McIntyre, Editor, The Daily Signal; Rob Bluey, Editor-in-Chief, The Daily Signal; Hans A. von Spakovsky, Manager, Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow, Heritage Foundation; Kevin Diaz, Houston Chronicle; Maria Recio, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Katie Leslie, Dallas Morning News; Steven Dinan, Washington Times; Josh Siegel, The Daily Signal; Leigh Munsil, TheBlaze; Morgan Chalfant, Washington Free Beacon; 20 +/-
Remarks:	Formal
Agenda:	<i>8:55AM – GGA proceeds to Zimdahl Room (7th Floor) 9:00AM – Breakfast begins 9:10AM – Harold Kazianis gives opening remarks 9:12AM – Ken McIntyre introduces GGA 9:15AM – GGA gives remarks 9:20AM – GGA concludes remarks and opens Q&A 9:50AM – Q&A concludes 10:00AM – Breakfast concludes</i>

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Attire: Business

Lunch: Hilton Houston Post Oak

11:40 am

State of the State Lunch: Hosted by Houston Realty Business Coalition and C Club

Location: Hilton Houston Post Oak

Room: Forum Room/Grand Ballroom

Contact: Ally McPhaul, Mammoth Marketing Group; Benjamin McPhaul

Staff: John Colyandro, John Wittman, Marcus Clark, Sam Schornack, 737-703-9699 m

Press: Open

Attendees: Alan Hassenflu, Chairman, Houston Realty Business Coalition (*Introducer*); Jarrod Foerster, President, C Club; Morgans Point Mayor Michel Bechtel; Jersey Village Mayor Justin Ray; Spring Valley Mayor Tom Ramsey; La Porte Mayor Louis Rigsby; Sugar Land Mayor Joe Zimmerman; Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan; Houston City Council Member Brenda Stardig; Houston City Council Member Greg Travis; Paul Simpson, Harris County Republican Party; Steve Mach, Vice President, C Club; Manson B. Johnson, Pastor, Holman Street Baptist Church; 350 +/-

Remarks: Formal

Agenda: 11:40AM – GGA proceeds to Forum Room for group photos

11:50AM – Group photos conclude; GGA proceeds to head table in Grand Ballroom

11:51AM – Jarod Foerster gives welcome remarks, recognizes elected officials, dignitaries and sponsors and introduces Pastor Manson Johnson

11:55AM – Johnson delivers Invocation

11:58AM – Foerster introduces Brenda Stardig for recitation of the Texas pledge and US pledge

12:00PM – Lunch is served; GGA and attendees begin eating

12:10PM – State of the State video plays

12:20PM – Foerster gives remarks and introduces Alan Hassenflu

12:25PM – Hassenflu gives remarks and introduces GGA

12:30PM – GGA gives remarks

12:55PM – GGA concludes remarks